

THE TIMES

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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1999

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LIBBY PURVES

Old men never forget

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on your beer and wine this Christmas

tokens and details page 37



MY KIND OF HERO

Sex and sensitivity by Britain's new film censor

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Welsh party on verge of civil war

Old Labour challenge to party chiefs

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

THE Labour leadership was facing a crisis last night after failing in its latest attempt to force Rhodri Morgan to quit the race to be the First Secretary of the Welsh assembly.

The party in Wales was on the verge of civil war as Mr Morgan, the "old Labour" candidate defeated last month by Ron Davies, insisted that he would not step aside for Alun Michael, the new Welsh Secretary, even though attempts will continue this week to stop him becoming Labour's official candidate.

All recent polls have shown Mr Morgan to be more popular and far better known than Mr Michael, who was promoted after Mr Davies resigned. And Labour MPs are warning that if Mr Michael is imposed, the party could suffer big losses to the nationalists in the assembly elections next summer.

Mr Morgan declared yesterday that Ian Paisley had a greater chance of becoming Pope than he had of agreeing to a "stitch-up" that would allow Mr Michael to take the top job ahead of him.

The Cardiff West MP said that he was overwhelmed by the popular support he was receiving and made clear that a contest could be avoided only if Mr Michael stood down.

But it is clear that Labour leaders in Wales are trying to



Morgan refused to step aside for Alun Michael

choose a method of selecting their candidate that will minimise Mr Morgan's chances.

Mr Morgan wants a straight one member, one vote election that will enable to capitalise on his popularity. But the leadership is likely to stick with the electoral college system that saw Mr Morgan defeated by Mr Davies last time. That gave a third of the votes each to the unions, MPs, and party members. MPs and unions are more likely to follow the leadership's wishes.

Meetings were held in Cardiff throughout the day as party officials sought to agree a method by which the prospective leader could be selected. They promised that whatever was agreed would not be a

London "stitch up". But they failed to reach agreement and will meet again this week.

Mr Michael, Mr Morgan and a third contender, Wayne David - the former leader of Labour's Euro-MPs - also met senior officials to see if a possible "dream ticket" could be found, but while the meeting was "cordial", it was inconclusive.

Last night Mr Morgan said that a ballot of some sort was inevitable, adding that he was the only official candidate at the moment, since Mr Michael had yet to be selected even as an assembly candidate. Asked if a "dream ticket" was out of the question, he said it could not be ruled out because it was still possible for Mr Michael to stand down.

Mr Michael meanwhile began his own campaign by pledging greater autonomy for the Welsh Labour Party - an attempt to scotch claims that he was being "parachuted in" by the leadership in London.

In a letter presented to the Welsh executive, he expressed his concern at divisions between the party in Wales and the party in London and admitted that key decisions over Euro and assembly candidates had angered many party faithful in Wales. He promised to raise their concerns with Tony Blair.



Agriculture Minister Nick Brown on a business-as-usual visit to Devon farms yesterday

Russian food shortage 'may endanger the West'

By Michael Binyon and Charles Bremner

RUSSIA is on the brink of severe food shortages that could pose a security threat to the West, intelligence sources have concluded.

The fears confirm Moscow's predictions that supplies could run out in weeks. Yesterday the European Commission proposed an emergency package of food aid worth £25 million to stave off starvation.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has said that "any sane person must regard the situation in Russia as serious - as it is for the Europeans as well". He said all intelligence reports agreed that food supplies would run out; the only argument was whether this would be in a few weeks' time or in the spring.

Satellite intelligence pointed to March as the time when there would be localised shortages of staple foods. Mr Cook said this could have a "severe impact" on security in Europe.

Western intelligence services, especially the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, spend much time and energy looking at satellite data from Russia to determine food supplies, seen as a crucial factor in the stability of the Moscow Government. Observations have already detected one of the worst grain and potato harvests for years. Supplies can be estimated by the loadings on lorries and trains.

The worry in Western capitals is that severe food shortages could lead to demonstrations and rioting that might topple the Russian Government. This could lead to unpredictable political consequences as well as the possible flight of thousands of refugees seeking food and shelter in the West.

Soldiers, already badly paid and suffering shortages so severe that some conscripts have starved to death, could be among those worst affected, especially in Siberia. Aleksandr Lebed, the former general and governor of the huge Krasnoyarsk region, recently gave a warning of military mutiny unless food and wages were guaranteed. Neighbouring provinces are reported to be in an even worse state.

Moscow has privately begged Western governments for help to avoid an immediate economic and political crisis, but no formal proposal has yet been made to Brussels.

Both sides agree that emergency aid would be limited and should not become institutionalised.

EU officials have given a warning that if aid found its way into the wrong hands, it could end up back on world markets, helping no one. Russians must promise not to re-export the food.

"We are taking this seriously," Mr Cook said. "We want to assist Russia through this winter. But the country has more than enough capacity to feed its own people in the long term."

The proposed aid would include a million tonnes of wheat, half a million tonnes of rye, 100,000 tonnes of pig-meat, 150,000 tonnes of beef and 50,000 tonnes each of milk powder and rice.

Prince describes his role as King

By Daniel McGrory

IN his clearest vision yet of how he sees the future of the monarchy, Prince Charles dismisses the idea that Britain should copy the slimmed-down, cheaper Scandinavian model.

He is against scaling back any of the great ceremonial occasions and advocates a "privacy zone" to protect the Royal Family's personal lives.

After the weller of books and documentaries to mark his 50th birthday, and the contradictory claims they have made in his name, the Prince cooperated with last night's *Panorama* programme on BBC television.

He refused to be filmed but in private briefings described at length how he will behave as king. On the throne, he says he will continue to support any cause he fancies and speak out on any issue he feels strongly about.

While he hopes to bring "a new informality" to the role he told the BBC this will not extend to saying any more about his relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles.

He spoke of his resentment at the "money-making industry" that has grown out of his

casions and advocates a "privacy zone" to protect the Royal Family's personal lives.

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Brown takes no action over 'outing' by press

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

NICK BROWN last night acted to bring a speedy end to controversy over his "outing" as a homosexual by ruling out any complaint about his treatment by the press.

In a clear attempt to draw a line under the issue, the Agriculture Minister made plain that he would be making no further comments on his private life and Downing Street praised the media's handling yesterday of his disclosure on Saturday that he was gay.

His move was in sharp contrast to the attack on newspapers yesterday by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who accused some as acting like "judge, jury and executioner". Mr Prescott and politicians from other parties called on the Press Complaints Commission to intervene over the methods used by newspapers to "out" politicians.

But Mr Brown's action last night made clear that neither he nor Tony Blair wants the affair prolonged and, in effect, means there will be no Commission investigation. Lord Wakeham, its chairman, said yesterday that action would depend on a complaint from Mr Brown.

A poll last night backed Mr Blair's decision to stand by Mr Brown. An ICM survey in *The Guardian* showed 52 per cent believed that being openly gay was compatible with being a Cabinet Minister, with 33 per cent saying it was not.

Downing Street sources said Mr Prescott had been referring to the "outing" of politicians rather than the way papers had handled the news yesterday, although he is known to have strong feelings about the press and the way it has covered his family.

Last night a spokesman for Mr Brown said that he "has been very touched by the support he has received from close colleagues and from the public, including farmers. He is determined to get on with the job that the Prime Minister has entrusted him to do and has no intention of making a complaint about the press coverage or of commenting further on his private life."

Downing Street took a low-key approach yesterday. It made plain that Mr Blair will continue to allow gay ministers to maintain privacy over their sexuality. Sources emphasised that ability would be Mr Blair's sole criterion in judging who should be in his Cabinet and Government. "Most people feel they are entitled to some sort of privacy. Some may wish to make public statements about their private lives. Others do not," the Prime Minister's spokesman said.

The Agriculture Minister yesterday conducted a business-as-usual tour of the West Country, visiting hard-pressed Devon farmers to discuss the crisis in agriculture.

All-hours pubs for New Year

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

ROUND-THE-CLOCK drinking in pubs and clubs on New Year's Eve would be introduced from the millennium under government proposals announced yesterday.

Pubs and other licensed premises are likely to open non-stop for 36 hours over the millennium - from 11am on New Year's Eve until last orders on New Year's Day. But ministers are proposing the concession should be extended to cover every New Year's Eve in the hope that it will reduce binge drinking in the last few minutes before closing time.

George Howarth, Home Office minister in charge of liquor licensing said: "New Year's Eve is already a special occasion for many people, and the start of the millennium will be a particularly important event."

He said that he expected most licensed premises would want to stay open well beyond normal closing time for parties to mark the beginning of the year 2000.

Mr Howarth added that the Government thought it was time to ease licensing laws for New Year's Eve in future. "A general relaxation of normal hours for each New Year's Eve would remove a significant burden from the licensed trade."

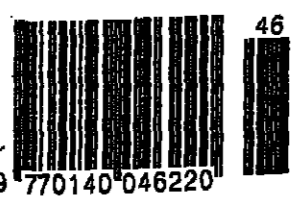
It would also benefit the courts and the police service who have to consider each application.

Last night, the proposal was welcomed by the brewing industry. John Tomlin, of the *Licence and Morning Advertiser*, said he did not think extended hours would lead to more public disorder. "There may well be fewer incidents," he said.

How to keep drinking for 48 hours... Dr Stuttaford, page 3

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"Well, it's good news for the Duchess of York"

Continued on page 2, col 5

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Jackson wins apology over paper's 'disfigured face' slur



Jackson: victory

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE pop star Michael Jackson won an apology from *The Mirror* newspaper yesterday after a six-year libel battle to prove his famous face was not "hideously disfigured and visibly scarred."

The settlement was agreed after an unprecedented move in which the singer agreed to allow his features, stripped of all make-up, to be examined for 40 minutes in an hotel suite in Los Angeles.

The issue was the subject of intense speculation over many years — as the "disfigured and scarred" result of repeated cosmetic surgery. It published a startling close-up photograph of Jackson, then 33, saying that he was a "scarred phantom whose face is covered with scar tissues, with a hole in his nose, one cheek higher than the other and an oddly sagging chin."

The issue was the subject of intense speculation over many years — as the "disfigured and scarred" result of repeated cosmetic surgery. It published a startling close-up photograph of Jackson, then 33, saying that he was a "scarred phantom whose face is covered with scar tissues, with a hole in his nose, one cheek higher than the other and an oddly sagging chin."

British plastic surgeon, Christopher Ward, while for Jackson were two lawyers from Olswang, the London law firm, Jackson's American lawyer and the singer's own physician.

Olswang, solicitor for the singer, said yesterday: "Obviously from his perspective it was quite an imposition. But he was willing to go through with it in order to be able to pursue the proceedings."

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 1998

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beef ban could go by spring

Britain's farmers could be poring over a new bill in the House of Commons in the next few weeks. The bill would allow the government to ban the export of beef to the European Union if it is found to be contaminated with BSE.

Puttern and aos

Statist

Sex change bid

Three non-sexuals are seeking to overturn North West Lancashire Health Authority's decision to refuse to fund sex change operations.

Healthy profit

The Church of England made a million a month profit in the company producing the 'Neighbours in Need' campaign.

Jones plea rebuffed

Multi-millionaire Lord Havelock

Meningitis fear

The problems emerged in two surveys, by the diocesan Board of Social Responsibility and Surrey County Council.

Colours struck

The problems emerged in two surveys, by the diocesan Board of Social Responsibility and Surrey County Council.

Bishop reveals sins of Middle England

A BISHOP drew aside the lace curtains of his affluent, middle-class diocese yesterday to reveal wife-beating, drug addicts and suicidal executives.

The Right Rev John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford, said that the facade of wealth and prosperity in the stockbroker belt of Surrey hid growing problems of social need and poverty.

"We are used to stories of urban deprivation but the words deprivation and Surrey rarely occur in the same sentence," he said, calling for the area to be viewed in a new light.

The diocese is so concerned about the extent of social deprivation in a county more associated with the gin-and-Jaguar set that it has launched a "Neighbours in Need" campaign.

Wife-beating, drug addiction and suicide stalk suburbia, says the Church. Ruth Gledhill reports

nearby four in ten 15 and 16-year-olds had experimented with drugs; one in three women had suffered domestic violence; more than 35,000 disabled people in Surrey needed support and care; and more than 70,000 people had mental health problems.

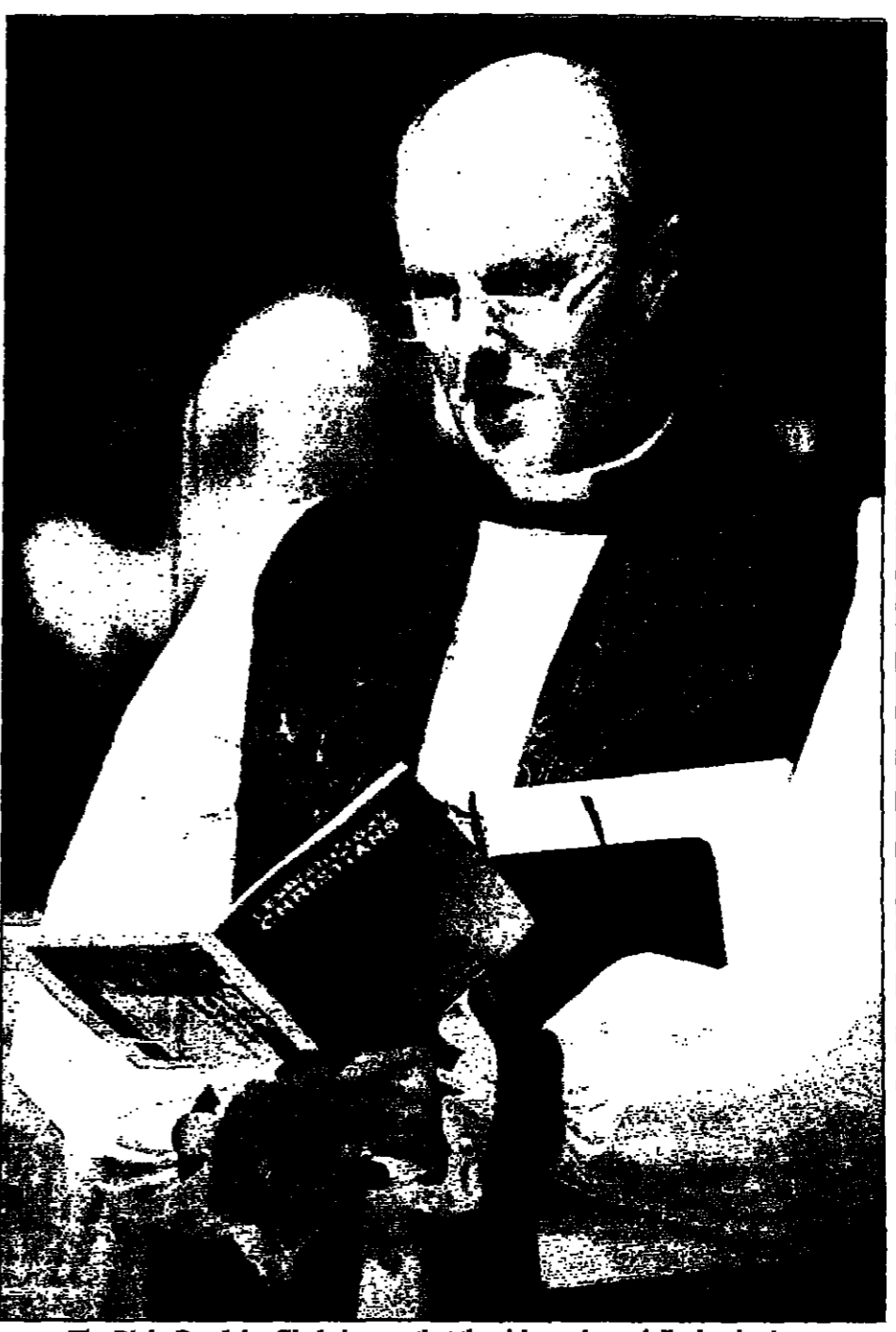
With a huge proportion of Surrey's population commuting to London each day, leaving home in the early hours and returning late at night, people had no time to know their neighbours.

sometimes needed help. "A healthy bank account does not immunise your family against disability or protect your children from experimenting with drugs."

Considering that the United Kingdom has the highest divorce rate in Europe, family breakdown is a real problem for us. There is particular concern that boys from broken homes may lack role models.

TONIGHT, 10 WOMEN IN SURREY WILL BE WEARING LITTLE BLACK NUMBERS. 0800 389 4403

SURREY SCHOOL KIDS DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT DOING LINES ANY MORE. 0800 389 4403



The Right Rev John Gladwin says that the rich can be socially deprived too

Murder charge GP faces committal

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A FAMILY doctor charged with murdering four of his elderly women patients will appear before magistrates today as police prepare to exhumate three more bodies.

Harold Shipman, 52, is expected to be committed for trial by Tameside magistrates in Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, on charges of murdering Kathleen Grundy, 81, and falsifying her will to make himself the main beneficiary.

Police are now investigating the circumstances surrounding the deaths of up to 116 patients over the last 14 years. The number of cases has risen sharply after concerned relatives contacted a local health authority helpline. Four women patients who died lived on the same road in Gee Cross, on the outskirts of Hyde.

Dr Shipman, who runs a practice in Hyde, is also charged with murdering Bianca Pomret, 49, Joan Melia and Winifred Mellor, both 73.

Keys dropped in woods could belong to killer

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

KEYS found near the body of Jennifer King, who was strangled on her way home from a disco, are likely to have been dropped by her killer, police said yesterday.

The two Yale-type keys, found during a search of the corpse where Miss King's body was discovered a week ago today, are the first solid clue. More than 20 copies have been given to police making house-to-house inquiries.



The keys that were found near Jennifer King's body

Open verdict on lecturer who hanged himself

By PETER FOSTER

AN ACADEMIC who was sacked for allegedly plagiarising his students' work hanged himself from the window of his study as his girlfriend looked on, an inquest was told yesterday.

Yesterday at a hearing in Birmingham, Suzanne Orsler, 36, related how Ian Connell, a lecturer in television and media studies at Wolverhampton University with whom she lived, had become depressed after being dismissed for professional misconduct.

On June 29, Ms Orsler said, she had returned home from a night out with friends when her partner came into the bedroom. "He said 'I've got something to show you,' so I went with him up to the office in the attic. He walked to the side

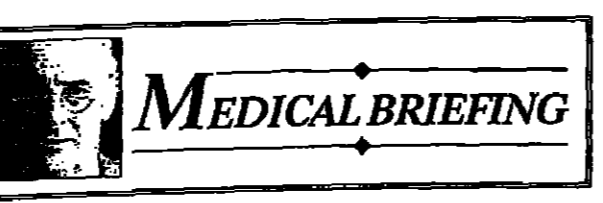
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Textphone 0345 622 644 www.disability.gov.uk

Surviving the millennium excess

IT IS good news for all hearty drinkers that the Government has decided that Bacchus and the millennium can be toasted in style and that the pubs will stay open for 36 hours.



er, the human body metabolises alcohol at the rate of one drink an hour. If those celebrating drank no faster than this, they would remain sober enough to meet Jan Paisley or the local chief constable without exciting suspicion.

Binge drinking, whether for 12, 24 or 36 hours, has its risks. Evidence from Sweden shows that the admission of alcohol-related medical disorders increases with every type of drink except red wine.

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Ad campaign tackles violence in the home

Ministers want to help traumatised child victims, reports Valerie Elliott

CHILDREN whose fathers are violent towards them or their mothers are being encouraged to report them to advisers on such problems, or to teachers.

Government advertisements intended to make domestic violence socially unacceptable are to be broadcast on television in Scotland over the Christmas period, and in the rest of the country next year. The campaign is part of the Government's new strategy on women's issues, which was unveiled yesterday by Baroness Jay of Paddington, Leader of the Lords and Cabinet Minister for Women, and Tessa Jowell, Women's Minister in the Commons, and which constitutes a departure from 1970s-style feminism.

One in five women suffers domestic violence in Scotland, and one in four women in England, Helen Liddell, Scottish Women's Minister, said yesterday that it was "the ultimate unreported crime", and knew "no barriers in class or loca-

tion". She suggested that the alcohol consumption and stress associated with the Christmas period sometimes triggered violence in the home.

Mrs Liddell said that the advertisements would show what appeared to be the perfect family. The father comes home from work, plays with the children, and then turns

on the mother because his supper is not on the table. Voices are raised, and the man challenges the woman's credentials as a mother and wife. As the row develops physically the horrified reactions of the children are highlighted. No violence is shown on screen.

Mrs Liddell said: "The film will focus on the look of fear

and horror on the children's faces. We need to get that message across behind the face curtains and to tell everyone they have a part to stop this abuse in the home.

"We want children to recognise that it is not acceptable and we want children in abusing households to be aware that help is there for them."

A telephone hotline number will be screened, and the advertisement will also suggest that children should not be afraid to speak out to teachers.

Mrs Liddell emphasised, however, that the best people to deal with violence in the home were organisations with expertise in the problem.

Mrs Liddell also wants to reach women who are suffering silently at home at the hands of husbands and partners.

Lady Jay hopes to publish a document on the best projects round the country tackling domestic violence. Ministers are impressed with the work of various local authorities in is-



Baroness Jay with pupils at North Westminster Community School, where she launched the new initiative

WHEN DRYS CAME TO THE AID OF WETS

Feminists might have blamed a male chauvinist plot for the hosing down of journalists and officials who attended the launch of the Government's new strategy for women yesterday. The explanation was more prosaic (Valerie Elliott writes). The ministers, Baroness Jay of Paddington, Tessa Jowell and Helen Liddell, escaped the deluge and were evacuated from the basement of the Commonwealth Club, near Trafalgar Square. But Anna Healey, adviser to Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet enforcer, Jackie Astley, IEN's political correspondent, and Robin Mountfield, Permanent Secretary at the Cabinet Office, were caught in the downpour. Ms Jowell organised a mop-up with paper napkins and ordered replacements of white linen tablecloths, arrived and the ministers carried on, enthusiasm unimpaired.

suing battered women with mobile telephones and panic buttons so that they can summon help. In Manchester, schools have been provided with guidance on coping with pupils from violent homes. The group Rights for Women

praised the advertising campaign. A spokeswoman said it was "really important that domestic violence takes into account the impact of the abuse on children. I would also like there to be more opportunities for children to be heard. See-

ing violence has a terrible impact on them."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, drew attention to the problem in his recent Green Paper on the family, which stated that in three out of five cases, where children suffered

neglect or abuse, their mothers were also abused. "Domestic violence can cause severe emotional and behavioural problems for children, who are often able to give detailed accounts of domestic violence and are traumatised," it said.

Mother's role is best model for one girl

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TERRI ROACHE, 16, who is studying A levels in chemistry, maths and theatre studies, has no need for Baroness Jay's proposed panel of celebrity role models.

The woman she looks up to most is her mother, Beverly File, who has brought up two children on her own while working as a nanny.

"Even though she may not be seen as successful in other people's eyes, to me she is the most successful person I know. It is her strength and her hard work that I really admire," Ms Roach said.

The fact that her mother had to cope with two daughters on her own, far away from her own family in Barbados, is a constant source of admiration and inspiration for Ms Roach. "She has worked so hard to pass on her strict moral values to me and my sister. Yet at the same time she is the kind of mother you can talk to."

Ms Roach, who met Lady Jay when she visited North Westminster Community School in North London yesterday, said it was insulting to girls to suggest that they might chose someone like Geri Halliwell, the former

Spice Girl, as a role model. "I don't look up to her. She has not worked really hard to get where she has in the same way that my mum has." Her other role models, she added, are people such as Harriet Tubman, a slavery abolitionist born in North America in 1820 who led 300 slaves to freedom after escaping from a plantation in Maryland in 1849.

Ms Roach said she had very few female role models, largely because in school she was "only really taught about men."

John Coleman, head of the Trust for the Study of Adolescence in Brighton, said that few teenage girls chose pop stars or other celebrities as role models. "The real influence over young girls comes from adults they come into contact with every day, such as their mum or a teacher," he said.

He added, however, that teenage girls would draw inspiration from seeing more women succeed in responsible positions, in Parliament or business. "We clearly do need to work harder as a society to provide routes for young girls to success," he said.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY

Sensitive

New film chief...
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Sensitive heroes get censor's vote



Change of direction: DiCaprio and Schwarzenegger
New film chief would rather watch DiCaprio than Schwarzenegger, reports Carol Midgley



Robin Duval: "Over the last ten to 15 years, Hollywood has put out far more films in which violence is a main feature than I am comfortable with"

BRITAIN'S new chief film censor has welcomed the trend away from macho heroes such as Arnold Schwarzenegger towards more sensitive role models like Leonardo DiCaprio.

Robin Duval, 57, who next year succeeds James Ferman as the director of the British Board of Film Classification, said that he had been uncomfortable about the number of gratuitously violent films such as *Eraser* and *Terminator* which had flooded the market in the 1980s and 1990s, making icons of actors such as Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone.

He also said that he had not liked the violence in Quentin Tarantino's films *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction* and believed that Tarantino would soon need to find "another hole to come out of" creatively.

"I think Tarantino is an incredible talent, but I don't particularly like the violence in those films. Having said that, I don't think *Reservoir Dogs* is as violent as its reputation suggests. It's very bloody but you

don't actually see a lot of the violence on screen," he said.

Mr Duval, currently the deputy head of programming at the television watchdog, the Independent Television Commission which regulates taste and decency, said that there seemed to be a "minor tidal movement" away from machismo films.

He said: "Personally I think that over the last ten to 15 years, Hollywood has put out far more films in which violence is a main feature than I am comfortable with.

"It is a Hollywood problem, however. It is not reasonable to turn to the BBFC and say 'It's your fault - you should have stopped this'. Now there is a movement away from the violent, macho heroes in the early Nineties. The Stallones and Schwarzeneggers are all getting rather old and losing their charm.

"Hollywood is now moving towards less aggressive heroes like Tom Hanks and Leonardo DiCaprio who, let's be honest, is the opposite of machis-

mo." Hanks received acclaim for his portrayal of the gentle but slow hero *Forest Gump* in the Hollywood film, while DiCaprio played a similar part as an endearing, mentally retarded boy in *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* and was the classic, non-aggressive hero in *Titanic*.

Mr Duval said that he would not single out any violent films in particular for criticism but objected more to their high numbers. "I didn't have any particular films in mind. The problem is where there is a flow of violent movies at once.

"These things are cyclical. It would be naive to think they [violent films] have left Hollywood for good, but I welcome the changing emphasis."

Mr Duval's favourite film is the 1956 classic western *The Searchers*, starring John Wayne. He also cited Ingmar Bergman's 1957 film *Smultronstället* (*Wild Strawberries*) as

another favourite. "I must have seen *The Searchers* a dozen times or more," he said. "It is a great movie."

Mr Duval, a father of four daughters, is being followed into the industry by two of his children, now in their twenties. Polly Duval produces feature films for Channel 4, while Sophie Duval is an actress who has just finished making a Mike Leigh film about Gilbert and Sullivan.

It was under Mr Duval's reign that the ITC allowed Channel 5 to screen the extremely violent *Natural Born Killers*. However, he defended the decision explaining that it had been broadcast very late and censored in parts.

Mr Ferman, who he succeeds in January, has been in the job 24 years and has been heavily criticised for being too liberal as a censor.

Mr Duval said: "I think anybody that moves into a job likes to do things differently.



her's role st model one girl

AN SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

she launched the new initiative

neglect or abuse, their mothers were also abused. "Domestic violence can cause serious emotional and behavioral problems for children who are often able to give detailed accounts of domestic violence and are traumatised," it said.

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Strong women get the blame for BBC's Vanity failure

By CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AUDIENCES for *Vanity Fair*, the BBC's much-hyped costume drama, fell to six million on Sunday, attracting only one in four viewers.

The £6 million dramatisation of William Makepeace Thackeray's novel won a 25 per cent share of the audience while the Inspector Wexford police drama gained a 46 per cent share and just over 10 million

viewers, according to early figures. This was despite large advertisements placed in the press by the BBC, drawing viewers' attention to the drama and to a series of excellent critical reviews.

Last week *Vanity Fair* pulled in 6.8 million, as viewers opted to watch an old repeat of *Taggart* on ITV. Next week the ratings are likely to drop further as the BBC moves it back half an hour in the schedule to 9.30pm to ensure it does not have

to compete with ITV's *Heartbeat*. It will then, however, be head-to-head with *Cold Feet*, the comedy drama starring Helen Baxendale which won a Silver Rose at the Montreux Film Festival.

The performance of *Vanity Fair* has prompted speculation that the BBC may have created a backlash to period dramas by choosing novels with strong female leads.

Andrew Davies, who adapted *Vanity Fair* and *Pride and Preju-*

dice for the BBC, has admitted he was pressurised by women producers to play up female roles.

He said women viewers wanted to be like the feisty, attractive characters while male viewers "want to go to bed with them".

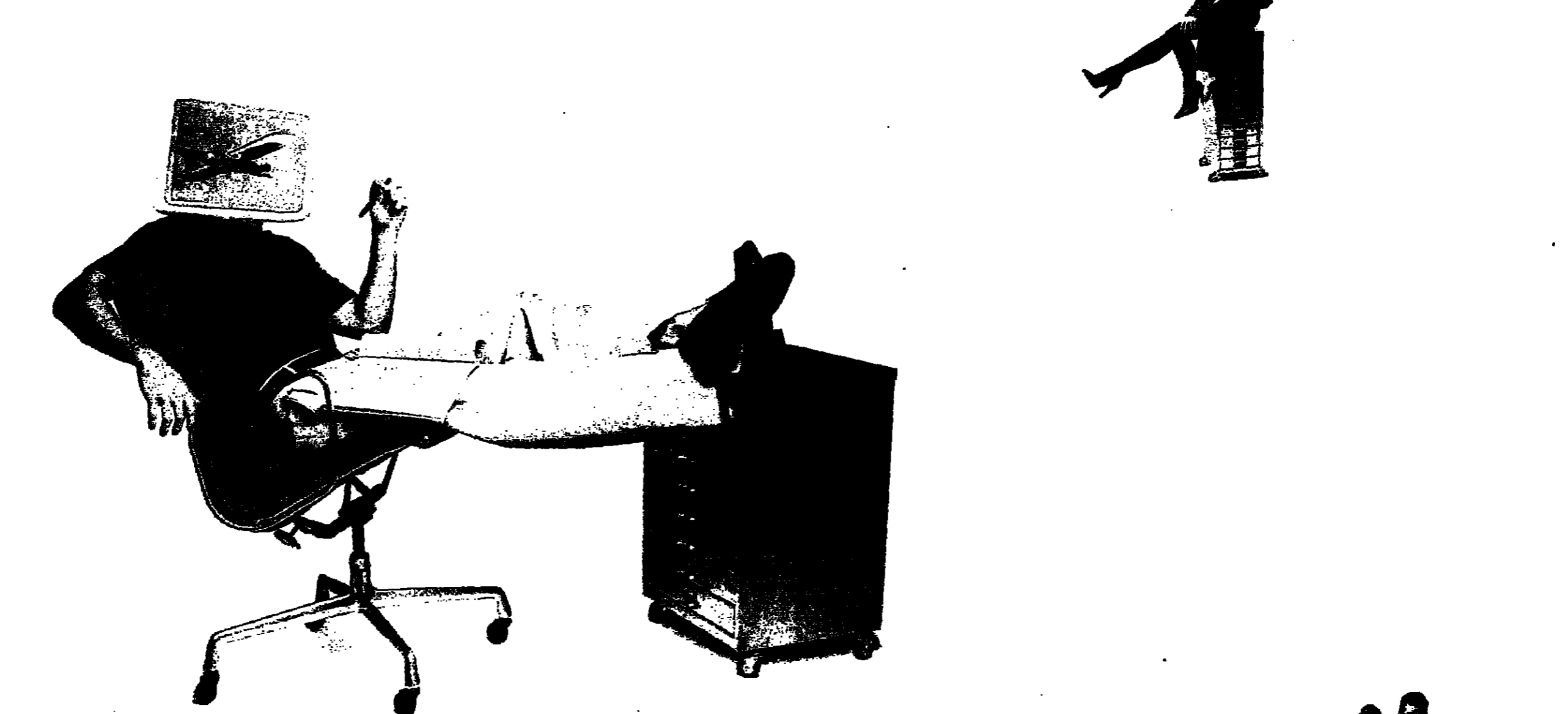
Suzanne Harrison, who produced *Vanity Fair*, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* and *Tom Jones* for the BBC, said there had been a deliberate policy towards strong females "to emphasise their roles" and point out the "connection with today's modern women".

David Noakes, professor of English at University College London, who adapted *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* for the BBC said he would be reluctant to do any more. He said there needed to be more accuracy with regard to plot and language. "I'm not sure the BBC any longer knows what it wants," he said.

The BBC yesterday said it was de-

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police row provokes resignation

A third member of Merseyside Police Authority resigned yesterday over the appointment of Norman Betison as Chief Constable despite his links to the Hillsborough football disaster.

Dempster fined

Nigel Dempster, the Daily Mail diarist, was fined £1,000 and Associated Newspapers was fined £10,000 for contempt of court over a hearing involving the property tycoon Christopher Moran.

Fight for sight

A £40 million programme to eliminate trachoma, the second most common form of blindness, was launched in London by the drug company Pfizer, and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.

Treasure returns

More than 40 Egyptian antiquities smuggled into Britain by Jonathan Toleky-Parry, a restorer who was jailed for six years in June last year, will be returned to the Egyptian Embassy today.

Yellow card

Yellow Pages is weeding out tradesmen who preface their entries with a string of letters as so they go to the top of the list. Unless they produce head-to-head notepaper to show the letters are part of their trading name, the letters are dropped.

Lady Falkender

In an interview with Gemma Levine, "Photographic memories" (October 14) it was stated that Lady Falkender "has a brain tumour, is confined to a wheelchair and gets mud-died". We have been asked to make it clear that her operation was for an aneurism, not a brain tumour, and that although she uses a wheelchair she is not confined to it. She is recovering well.

US bugged me in Bosnia, says General Rose

UN's British commander tells Michael Evans that the Americans suspected him of being soft on the Serbs



General Rose says eavesdropping led to emergence in Washington of distorted reports about his operation

GENERAL Sir Michael Rose, the former United Nations military commander in Bosnia, revealed yesterday that his headquarters in Sarajevo may have been bugged by the Americans because they were convinced he supported the Bosnian Serbs.

the mediator, not take sides, but I had to educate the Americans before they understood what the mission in Bosnia was about," he said.

When he later asked the Americans if they were also bugging his headquarters, "they never denied it".



Rose in Sarajevo: "I wasn't pro-Serb or pro-Muslim"

Greene novel" called Fred Cuny, an ex-US Marine Corps officer who was running a water project in Sarajevo for the International Rescue Committee.

He said he would do everything he could to undermine me, unless I could demonstrate my resolve by action on the ground. At which point I threw him out."

On another occasion, he was visited by General John Galvin, former Supreme Allied Commander Europe who had been appointed by President Clinton to advise on a new structure for the Bosnian Army.

General Rose said the woman burst into tears when it was pointed out that the Croats had been to blame. "The fact was not lost on Galvin," he said.

Russian grave may hold our soldiers

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Ministry of Defence is investigating reports of a mass First World War grave in northern Russia that could contain the remains of dozens of British soldiers.

The grave has been discovered in a field near Kandakaksha, south of the Russian submarine base at Murmansk.

A Ministry of Defence official said: "We don't know for sure at this stage whether the grave has British remains in it but we are investigating."

The Ministry is examining 80-year-old records to establish whether any servicemen were killed in that area. Discussions are also being held with the Russian authorities.

It is believed that the remains could be casualties from the British contingent of the international intervention force sent to Murmansk and Archangel in 1918 in a covert attempt to overturn the Russian revolution.

A spokeswoman said that the number of soldiers buried there was thought to be in "the tens rather than hundreds".

Extraditing Pinochet will 'damage good relations with Chile'

Law lords are being urged not to interfere with country's balance of political stability, reports Joanna Bale

BRITAIN should not damage its good diplomatic relations with Chile by agreeing to extradite General Augusto Pinochet to Spain on allegations of kidnap, torture and murder, five Law Lords were told yesterday.

prosecution because he was head of state when the allegations against him were said to have occurred. The Crown Prosecution Service, on behalf of Spain, has argued that the General should be extradited for his "crimes against humanity".

Ms Montgomery told the hearing that since 1990, when the former dictator stepped down as President during the country's return to democratic rule, he had enjoyed good relations with Britain which had included four visits to

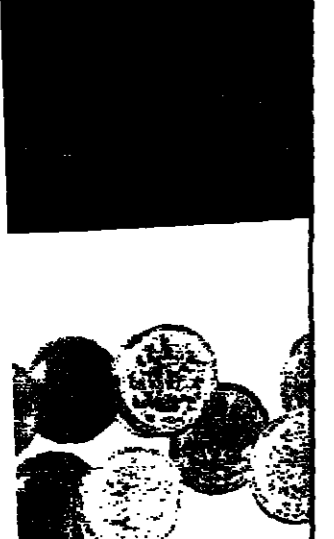
London, including one as a guest of a government agency, the Royal Ordnance. On each of these visits the Government afforded him treatment consistent with his status as a former head of state or as a member of a diplomatic mission.

leged crimes committed during the apartheid era. On stepping down as Chilean President in 1990, General Pinochet became a senator for life and appeared to have been given immunity to prosecution within Chile.

Ms Montgomery told the Law Lords that, in any case, judicial authorities in Chile were examining

human rights abuses, said: "Chile has made a peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy... This transition should be supported, not undermined."

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'Gay mafia' is pure political fantasy

Peter Riddell unpicks conspiracy theories in an analysis of power groups within the Blair Cabinet

THE paranoid have always detected conspiracies among the rich and the powerful. One fringe American presidential candidate claimed that the Queen and MI6 were at the centre of a conspiracy involving the Kremlin (in pre-Gorbachev days), the Israeli intelligence service Mossad and the big Wall Street banks.

By contrast, alleged conspiracies here look rather tame. The Sun's front-page question yesterday, "Are we being run by a gay mafia?", was not only grotesquely offensive but it is also ludicrous in its own terms.

The idea that the homosexual members of the Cabinet act

together in secret to advance their interests is nonsense — just as it would be to suggest that the Cabinet's half-dozen divorcees have a common bond to weaken the family.

Relations between Peter Mandelson and Nick Brown have been distinctly unfriendly since the bitter Labour leadership contest of summer 1994. Neither has been heard to say anything kind about the other. In many ways, the current hunt for Cabinet gays is reminiscent of the anti-Semitic murmuring about ministers of Jewish attraction in the Thatcher Cabinet of the mid-1980s.

But conspiracy theorists have plenty of other material



to go on now — a Scottish mafia, another from the North East, or among women Cabinet members. Regional links obviously mean ministers know each other better, but that does not necessarily mean they like each other.

No one would describe Gordon Brown as part of a mafia with Robin Cook, nor do the six-strong northern contingent work together, except to defend their constituency interests.

There is no great feminist mafia either. The five women Cabinet members are not close to each other. The only two "mafias" that really matter in the present Cabinet are those around Tony Blair and Gordon Brown: people with whom they are in close touch rather than just meeting formally.

Mr Blair frequently talks to Mandelson (though seldom both together); as well as to Derry Irvine, who still at times treats him as a promising pupil barrister, and, outside the Cabinet, to Charlie Falconer, another old friend from the Bar.

They are part of a group

that includes close Downing Street staff such as Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell.

The Gordon Brown "mafia" includes Nick Brown, Donald Dewar (now somewhat detached), Margaret Beckett and Clare Short, as well as, outside the Cabinet, Geoffrey Robinson and several other junior ministers.

As significant as these are Ed Balls and Charlie Whelan on his personal staff.

Alleged mafias are not new. A century ago, Lord Salisbury's Government was so full of members of the Cecil family, including his nephew and successor Arthur Balfour, that his opponents coined the phrase, the "Hotel Cecil and 'Bob's your uncle'".

In the 1980s, Baroness Thatcher talked of "one of us", but, apart from a few stalwarts such as the late Nicholas Ridley, many allies fell out with her at some stage. Indeed, the Thatcherites always saw the Blue Chip dining club as a conspiracy, centred on Tristan Garel-Jones, to assist the promotion of each other. But in the leadership election of November 1990, the allegiances of the Blue Chips were split between John Major and Douglas Hurd.

There was much talk a decade ago about the power of the Cambridge "mafia", a group of Tory undergraduates of the late 1950s and early 1960s, five of whom served together in the Cabinet. But, while still friends, they were fierce rivals and sharply divided over Europe.

In reality, most alleged "mafias" or conspiracies dissolve on closer inspection.

Politics is usually both more individual and more accidental than the paranoid fantasists suppose.

Goodlad is tipped for Brussels

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

SIR ALASTAIR GOODLAD, the former Tory Chief Whip, emerged yesterday as the front-runner to become the next British commissioner in Brussels.

Downing Street firmly denied weekend reports that Tony Blair had sounded out Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor, about the job. It was confirmed by Conservative sources that William Hague, the Tory leader, had formally nominated Sir Alastair for the post which will become vacant when Sir Leon Brittan, the former Home Secretary, stands down. The unwritten understanding is that the job will go to a Conservative. Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, is the other British commissioner.

Downing Street said yesterday that the Conservatives had made their nomination and the Prime Minister took that seriously. Weekend reports suggested that he would appoint Mr Patten to undermine Mr Hague's stance on the single currency. Some ministers believe that Mr Patten, a more senior figure, should be appointed in any case.



Lord Irvine of Lairg wearing his full ceremonial dress

Once more into the breeches for Irvine as peers stop dress change

THE Lord Chancellor's attempt to discard his ceremonial finery of breeches, tights and buckled shoes could be blocked for good next week after fierce Tory opposition.

Such is the level of disapproval in the Lords that peers' leaders have been forced to take the rare step of putting the matter to a vote on the floor of the House on Monday. Tories are confident of victory.

Heated debate has already taken place in private committee sessions where such matters are normally resolved. But the issue has become so sensitive that the Lords' Procedure Committee has concluded that it can only be decided by a formal vote of all peers.

Almost from the day he took office last year, Lord Irvine of Lairg has complained bitterly about having to wear a full-bottomed wig, gown, breeches, tights and buckled shoes while sitting in Parliament.

However, his demands have angered traditionalist peers who believe the move is the latest attempt by the Government to remove Parliament's ancient ceremonies by stealth. They also believe it would diminish the standing of the office of Lord Chancellor.

Lord Irvine is expected to face questions about his dress today when he appears before the Commons Home Affairs Committee to talk about the work of his department. The Lord Chancellor

James Landale on Lord Chancellor's attempt to discard his 'ludicrous' attire

first asked the Procedure Committee last June for permission to modify what he called his "ludicrous" 17th-century uniform.

He demanded that he should be able to wear more comfortable and practical attire of black trousers and black shoes. He also asked that he could spend more time behind the dispatch box — when he can take off his wig and gown — while leading debate on government Bills. At present, he can do this only during the committee stage of a Bill. Most of the time he sits and speaks from the Woodcock where he presides as *ex-officio* Speaker of the House of Lords.

Lord Irvine has even dragged Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, into the debate by pointing out that she decided not to wear a wig when she took up her position in 1992.

"Although Lord Irvine made clear he was prepared to wear his full ceremonial dress on formal parliamentary occasions such as the State Opening of Parliament, Tory and Liberal Democrat peers

on the Procedure Committee fiercely opposed any changes. But instead of rejecting the move outright, they decided to leave the final decision up to a formal vote on the floor of the House.

Earl Ferrers, the former Tory minister, has tabled two amendments to the committee's report. He wants peers to stop any changes and to insist that the Lord Chancellor continues to speak most of the time from beside the Woodcock. While most peers are relatively relaxed about Lord Irvine spending more time behind the dispatch box without his wig, they are more concerned about the dress changes.

"The position of Lord Chancellor is one of the highest in the land," Lord Ferrers said. "It commands great dignity and the panoply and the ceremonial of the Lord Chancellor should not be diminished."

"It would be a pity if one member who had the privilege of holding the position at a particular time decided to dress down for personal convenience, which would then be likely to be continued by future Chancellors."

He added: "One might as well suggest that the soldiers taking part in the Trooping of the Colour should do away with their bearskins because they are not currently fashionable. This is another example of the present Government chipping away at traditions and standards which are the envy of other countries."

£20m limit in place by election

By MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

A PROPOSAL to limit to £20 million the amount that political parties can spend on general election campaigns could be in place when the nation next goes to the polls.

Jack Straw told the Commons yesterday that the cap recommended by the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life was in the "right bracket". The Home Secretary added that it would not be possible to introduce a draft Bill until next summer.

Mr Straw also accepted that there was wide acceptance of a limit of £1.5 million for next year's Scottish parliament elections and £600,000 for the Welsh assembly elections. But he voiced reservations about the call for the Government of the day to remain neutral in referendum campaigns.

Mr Straw was opening a debate on the Neill report, which recommended an end to foreign donations. Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, said that the Tories' major donors would be listed in its annual accounts, to be published in the "next few weeks".

Adams denies disarmament move

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS yesterday dismissed as nonsense claims that the IRA was planning a pre-Christmas army convention to discuss disarmament. The Sinn Féin president said whoever inspired the reports on Sunday had done so to "confuse and make our task rather more difficult".

Mr Adams was speaking before a Downing Street meeting at which he sought Tony Blair's personal intervention to break the deadlock over decommissioning. David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, will not admit Sinn Féin to government until IRA disarmament begins, but Sinn Féin insists the Good Friday accord sets no such pre-conditions. The 200th terrorist prisoner will be released from the Maze this morning, but Mr Adams complained that neither a power-sharing executive nor the proposed new cross-border ministerial council had been set up. The peace process was being "bogged down quite deliberately" by Unionists, he said.

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£ 10,000+	5.65	5.15	4.12	4.79	3.83
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£25,000+	5.70	5.70	4.56	5.34	4.27
£10,000+	5.40	5.40	4.32	5.05	4.04
£ 2,500+	5.05	5.05	4.04	4.72	3.77
Below £2,500	0.25	0.25	0.20	0.25	0.20

Flexible Savings Account (except Personal Savings Account)	Previous gross annual rates	New Annual Option		New Monthly Option	
		Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	4.45	3.85	3.08	3.54	2.83
£10,000+	4.15	3.55	2.84	3.25	2.60
£ 5,000+	3.65	3.05	2.44	2.76	2.21
£ 500+	3.30	2.80	2.24	2.52	2.02
Below £500	0.25	0.20	0.16	0.20	0.16

TESSA	Previous gross annual rate		New rate %	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
	7.15%	Tax-Free	6.65%	Tax-Free

Asset Management Service Investment Account	Previous gross monthly rates	New Monthly Option	
		Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	6.50	6.03	4.82
£ 50,000+	6.13	5.65	4.52
£ 25,000+	5.79	5.32	4.25
£ 10,000+	5.41	4.94	3.96
Below £10,000	3.49	2.76	2.21

Young Savers Account	Previous gross quarterly rate	New Quarterly Option	
		Gross %	Net %
£1+	3.75	3.25	2.60

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		Gross %	Net %
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£250+	2.00	1.75	1.40
£100+	1.75	1.50	1.20
£ 50+	1.25	1.00	0.80
£ 1+	1.00	0.75	0.60

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with her at some stage. Indeed, the Thatcherites always saw the Blue Chip dining club as a conspiracy, centred on Tristan Garel-Jones, to assist the promotion of each other. But in the leadership election of November 1990, the allegiances of the Blue Chips were split between John Major and Douglas Hurd.

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In reality, most alleged "mafias" or conspiracies dissolve on closer inspection.

Politics is usually both more individual and more accidental than the paranoid fantasists suppose.

Injustice that hinders healing of Ulster pain

Martin Fletcher on how Northern Ireland's criminal compensation scheme is failing the bereaved

MICHELLE FENTON was 35 with four young children when the IRA abducted and killed her husband, Joe, in February 1989. He ran an estate agency and the family lived comfortably. They had just bought a new home in West Belfast which they had stripped to the brick for refurbishing.

Northern Ireland's Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme was set up to help people like Mrs Fenton. She applied for compensation but was given "nothing, not a halfpenny, not a farthing" because the scheme excludes anyone who had ever belonged to an "unlawful association".

Twelve years earlier, Mr Fenton had received a two-year suspended sentence for IRA membership. He had joined under peer pressure, had spurned the IRA ever since and had been killed by the organisation because it alleged that he was informing. But the rules were rigid.

Mrs Fenton had to work, first as a school meal server and later as an auxiliary nurse. "The kids not only lost a father but never saw their mother either," she said.

Her own mother had to sell her house to help. "Me and my children were innocent. They didn't deserve losing their father. They didn't deserve having to struggle for everything they wanted."

Thousands have been bereaved or maimed during 30 years of conflict. Mrs Fenton was one of several *The Times* interviewed at the Wave victims' support centre in North Belfast. All told harrowing stories of how the compensation scheme had failed them.

Compounding their suffering was the perception that public funds were being lavished on the terrorist prisoners that caused their pain. "It's like a sore," said Sandra Peake, Wave's co-ordinator. "The way compensation has been given keeps the wounds open."

Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, the

former head of Northern Ireland's Civil Service, is belatedly now examining the compensation scheme for the Government, but cannot re-open individual cases. In a general report on the victims last March, he said that he had "encouraged grief and suffering on an enormous scale" and a "corroding sense of grievance".

The scheme has paid out about £186 million to victims of terrorist violence since 1968, but causes deep bitterness because it compensates for "pecuniary loss". A chief executive's widow might thus have received a six-figure sum — Ingeborg Niedermayer, whose German industrialist husband vanished from his Belfast home in 1979, was awarded £100,000. The widow of an unemployed man may have got little more than funeral expenses.

"Apart from it being wrong, it hurts," said Betty Devlin, a widow who received nothing after her son, Sean, 31, was killed by the IRA in Belfast's inappropriate Friendly Street in 1996. He was unemployed.

The scheme also compensates for serious psychological injury, but only if the bereaved witnessed the killing. Michelle Williamson, 30, a civil servant, lost both parents in the 1993 Shankill Road fish shop bomb, and was so traumatised she never worked again. She got nothing because she did not see her parents die.

Christine McKay did witness two gunmen killing her husband Noel, a BT engineer, in their South Belfast driveway when she was heavily pregnant in 1978. She received compensation but was never told she could claim for mental trauma. She began drinking, lost her secretarial job, sold her home and sought ob-

scure in Armagh for the next nine years. "There are many people like me who didn't receive compensation because they didn't know," she said.

Each settlement is individually negotiated. That can require highly intrusive questioning at times of intense grief. The disfigured have had to display their wounds in court. The scheme favours those educated enough to understand the procedures and who can afford good solicitors. Sir Kenneth's first report said victims found the procedures "complex, baffling, frustrating and on occasion humiliating".

Margaret McKinney's son Brian, 22, was one of the so-called "disappeared", spirited away by the IRA in 1978. The trauma destroyed her health and that of her husband. Both had to give up work. Mrs McKinney, from West Belfast, never applied for compensa-

tion because she had no idea how to, and no proof that her son was dead. Today she cannot afford even a memorial. "Many's the time I thought if I had that, I could at least keep it nice and plant wee flowers," she said.

A Compensation Agency official said that it widely advertised its services, offered legal aid, and had no wish to shortchange victims. "We're trying to settle claims on a fair and reasonable basis."

Nor, contrary to recent reports, are terrorists prisoners receiving handsome grants on their release. However, it has cost £73,000 a year to keep each of them in prison, and prisoners' support groups have unquestionably been far better than the voiceless victims at securing public money.

Marie Smyth, director of the independent *Cost of the Troubles* study, said: "When you take into account the amount of money spent on maintaining prisoners and their subsequent rehabilitation there's no doubt it's substantially in excess of the amount of money being spent on victims."



Maria McShane lost an eye in a 1976 bombing. In 1994 her son was shot dead

Family's torment can never be erased

EVEN some who did receive money from Northern Ireland's Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme say that it was hopelessly inadequate.

In 1976, Maria McShane, of Keady, Co Armagh, was aged 18 and preparing to get married when she was caught in a loyalist pub bomb. She lost an eye, had shrapnel removed from her brain, and was seriously disfigured. In 1994, loyalist gunmen killed her 17-year-old son Gavin as he played a video game in a taxi office. She received £40,000 for her injuries and £15,000 for her son's death. That did not begin to compensate for what the family endured, she said.

Mrs McShane has never worked since, and still suffers from depression and acute headaches. Her husband had to retire at 40 after suffering heart attacks. The education of their other two children suffered badly. The family struggles to make ends meet.

"There were a lot of times over the years I considered suicide," Mrs McShane said. "Nobody knows what you've gone through."

£20m limit in place by election

BY MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

A PROPOSAL to limit to £20 million the amount that political parties can spend on general election campaigns could be in place when the nation next goes to the polls.

Jack Straw told the Commons yesterday that the cap recommended by the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life was in the "right bracket". The Home Secretary added that it would be possible to introduce a draft Bill next summer.

Mr Straw also accepted that there was wide acceptance of a limit of £1.5 million for the next year's Scottish and Welsh elections, and that the Welsh Government would be the first to recommend a cap on the call for the 1999 election. The cap would be a referendum campaign.

Mr Straw was also urged to recommend a cap on the cost of election campaigns. He said that the cap would be a referendum campaign.

'My children didn't deserve having to struggle'

They didn't deserve losing their father. They didn't deserve having to struggle for everything they wanted.

Thousands have been bereaved or maimed during 30 years of conflict. Mrs Fenton was one of several *The Times* interviewed at the Wave victims' support centre in North Belfast. All told harrowing stories of how the compensation scheme had failed them.

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Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, the



Suffering: Mary McClory and Margaret McKinney

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Pressure for airstrikes on Iraq mounts

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq was given a warning yesterday that unless he begins co-operating with United Nations weapons inspectors in a matter of weeks, his military infrastructure would suffer "immense damage" from airstrikes.

The message came from George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, after he arrived in Kuwait as part of a joint American/British campaign to gather support for military action among Iraq's neighbours.

Mr Robertson, who visited the Ali al-Salem airbase where the RAF has 12 Tornado GR1 bombers and 400 personnel ready for a renewed bombing campaign, said a coalition of countries across Europe and the Commonwealth was now lining up against Iraq.

After talks with the Kuwaiti

British defence chief threatens to attack in weeks, writes Michael Evans

Government, Mr Robertson said: "If Saddam thinks he can drag this out he makes a serious miscalculation. Patience is draining away and the option of force is still there."

He condemned Saddam's decision a week ago to stop co-operating with UN inspectors who are hunting for hidden chemical and biological weapons. "He has engineered the most serious confrontation with the international community since the end of the Gulf

War," he said. Mr Robertson added that although a diplomatic solution was preferred, the RAF Tornados were "concrete proof that force was a real option". The 12 Tornados form part of a 180-strong joint British/American strike force in the area.

Mr Robertson said that if Saddam refused to dismantle his chemical weapons plants, the bombers would be sent into action. "Either he destroys that capability or it may be that people will have to do that for him," he said.

In Washington, it appeared that a new strategy for dealing with Saddam was beginning to emerge. According to *The New York Times*, President Clinton was considering abandoning the UN arms inspections in favour of containment, including sanctions and the use of force. Officials said the



George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, with a RAF Tornado detachment at Ali al-Salem airbase in Kuwait

President was studying two options: a quick strike with US forces already in the Gulf or a sustained air campaign that would require a longer build-up of American forces.

A short-notice strike would involve launching Tomahawk cruise missiles and combat aircraft from the aircraft carrier

in the region, *USS Dwight D Eisenhower*. Currently there are 13 US warships in the Gulf — seven capable of launching cruise missiles — and 174 combat aircraft. Pentagon officials said America's Gulf forces could be built up in days to the levels of last year, when more than 400 aircraft and two air-

craft carrier battle groups were stationed there during a similar confrontation. US officials believe that by deciding to halt the inspections, Iraq has isolated itself internationally, alienating even countries such as France and Russia which have opposed military action in the past.

□ Baghdad: Iraq gave a warning yesterday that it could halt its postwar disarmament. The ruling Baath Party's newspaper said that "by denying Iraq the right to secure a lifting of the embargo," the Security Council could drive it "to review all the resolutions which it accepted in the past." (AFP)

Cypriot chippy flushes out 'Mossad spies'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A FARICAL element surrounding the arrest of two Israelis on suspicion of spying at a military base in Cyprus has prompted speculation that the incident may be the latest blunder by Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency.

The Israeli press seized on comments by a restaurateur in the fishing village of Zygi who suspected the men were spies because they had hidden away and did not visit his establishment, renowned for its fresh fish. But the case is being viewed seriously by both Governments, which were struggling yesterday to prevent it developing into a full-blown diplomatic row.

Cyprus said that there was no evidence so far, that the men — Udi Hargov, 37, and Igal Damary, 49 — were working for Israel, but it did voice suspicions that they were freelancing for Turkey.

Hardliner urges settlers to seize West Bank land

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A PROMINENT Israeli politician yesterday called on Jewish settlers to "grab" more land as military officials revealed that at least five new hilltop outposts have been built in the occupied West Bank since the Wye peace deal was signed in the United States two weeks ago.

With implementation of the accord frozen as a result of Israeli demands that the Palestinians do more to combat Islamic militants, the call for illegal settlement expansion is in defiance of a request from the US State Department for all such activity to be halted.

Benny Elon, a Knesset deputy for the hawkish *Molodet* Party, called on "all Jewish settlements" to "tear down the fences around them and put up mobile homes in order to establish as many facts on the ground as possible and confound this confused Government."

Mr Elon added: "What will not be ours, will be theirs. It is simple, we have to grab the land. The most important areas are the mountainous Samarian region, south of Hebron, and the areas near Efrat (all in the West Bank)."

Amos Harel, military corre-



Netanyahu: challenged by hawks in Knesset

spondent of the Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz*, claimed that "political pressure at Cabinet level" had so far prevented the army taking action against the new outposts, all erected since Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, signed the deal to transfer 13 per cent more of the West Bank to the Palestinians in exchange for new security guarantees.

Although the last two years have seen several of the 144 settlements expand to neighbouring hilltops, the two weeks since the White House signing ceremony have brought a surge in activity aimed at establishing new "facts on the ground" before negotiations on the final status begin.

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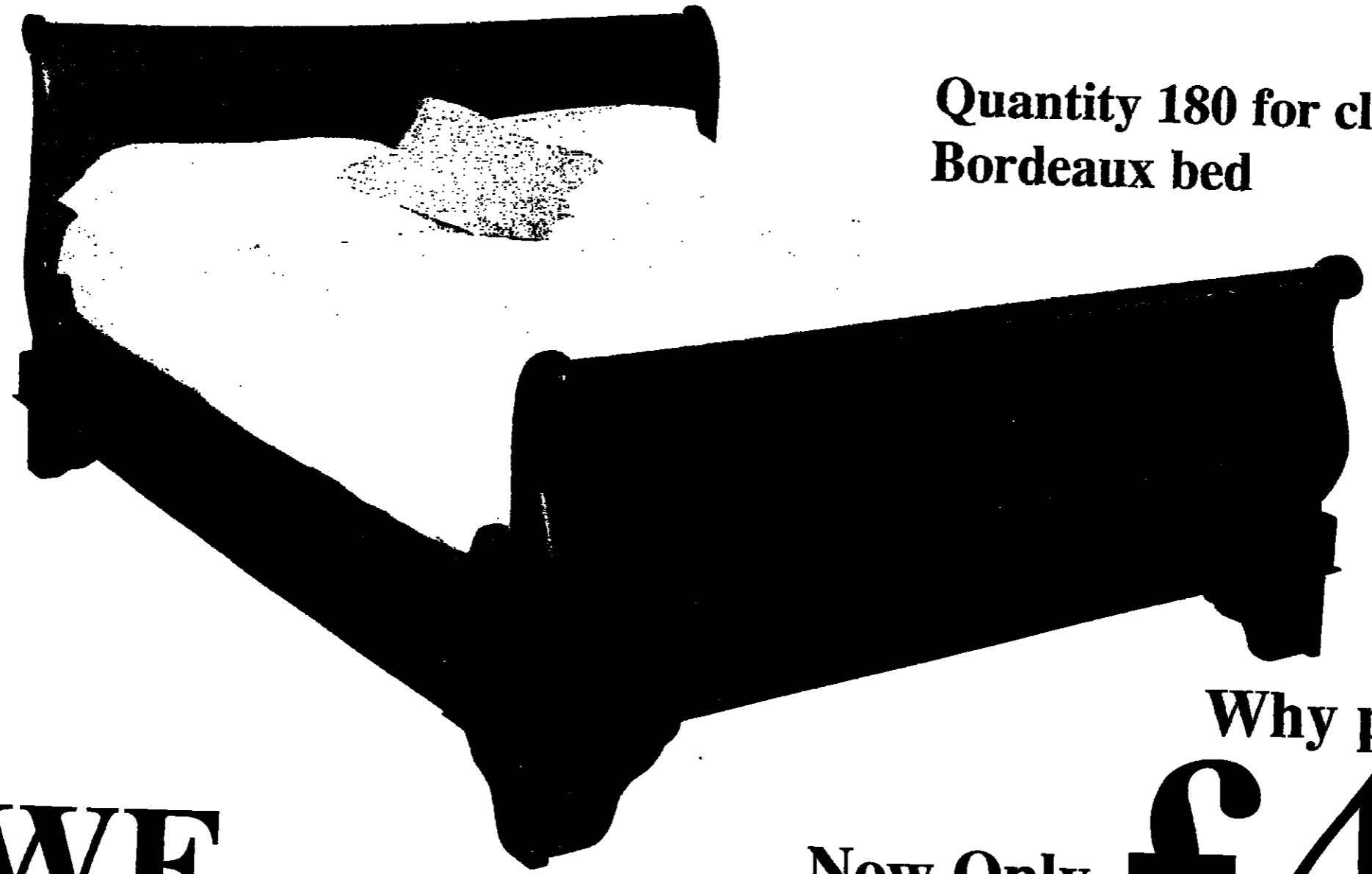
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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 1998

Cypriot chippy flushes out 'Mossad' spies

FROM MICHAEL THEODORE IN NICOSIA

A FARCICAL element surrounding the arrest of Israelis on suspicion of spying at a military base in Cyprus has prompted speculation that the incident was the latest blunder by the Israeli intelligence service.

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Cyprus said that there was no evidence so far of men - Udi Haron, Igal Daman, 49 - working for Israel but voice suspicions that were free-lancing for the

rdliner urges tlers to seize st Bank land

THE WEATHER SYSTEM

IT is a well-known fact that the weather is a very important factor in the lives of most people. It affects our health, our mood, and our daily activities. In the past few years, there has been a significant increase in the number of people who are suffering from weather-related illnesses. This is due to a combination of factors, including the effects of global warming and the increasing number of people who are spending more time outdoors.

It is important to be aware of the weather and to take appropriate precautions. This includes wearing appropriate clothing, staying hydrated, and avoiding excessive sun exposure. It is also important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of weather-related illnesses, such as dehydration, heatstroke, and sunburn.

If you are suffering from a weather-related illness, it is important to seek medical attention as soon as possible. Your doctor will be able to diagnose the problem and provide appropriate treatment. In the meantime, you should rest and avoid further exposure to the weather.

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Hurricane-hit banana firm sacks workers

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN LA CEIBA
NORTH HONDURAS

AS A huge Western relief operation began to airlift desperately needed aid to Central America, the devastated economies of the region have suffered a new blow, with thousands of banana workers facing the sack.

While George Bush, the former American President, arrived in Honduras with the first of thousands of tons of American assistance, multinational fruit companies, which have exploited the fertile valleys of northern Honduras for almost a century, announced that they are firing their entire workforce, numbering 16,000.

Employees of one of the companies, Standard Fruit, a subsidiary of the California-based Dole group, yesterday began



talks here with the banana unions to negotiate the terms of a temporary severance package as a result of the destruction of the crop by Hurricane Mitch.

The company says almost 80 per cent of its plantations - about 13,000 acres - were ruined by flooding that has halted its exports. Damage is so severe that company officials say many farms will have to be replanted, and new crops may

not be ready until the end of next year.

"There's absolutely nothing left. It's like *Gone With The Wind*," said Dr Francisco Romero-Baca, Standard's spokesman, describing one of the worst-affected plantations. "We have no answer yet for how much we will be able to export in 1999."

The company said it was seeking "temporary suspension" of all its employees for 12 months, but would be offering a hurricane bonus to its workers, as well as interest-free loans and a programme of food aid and medical attention. Under Honduran labour law, any deal arranged with the unions must be approved by the Honduran Government.

The company said it is also considering setting up a refugee camp for workers who lost their homes, and will be



George Bush, escorted by the wife of the Honduran President, heads for a meeting at the presidential palace

asking the United Nations to manage it.

But the unions say the deal is unacceptable, and accuse the company of seeking to turn the hurricane to its advantage,

at the cost of poorly paid workers who earn a basic salary of about \$120 (£7) a month.

While recognising the financial loss from crop damage, environmental experts also say

the banana companies may not have come off as badly as they suggest. "The floods are good for business. They bring hidden benefits," said Manuel Torres, a Honduran political

and economic analyst. He said studies show that the sediment washed down the mountainsides into the valley by the flooding carries valuable organic nutrients.

Paradise island protests at DNA testing

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

PEOPLE of Mustique, the Caribbean paradise island frequented by millionaires, supermodels, rock stars and royalty, are being fingerprinted in an effort to solve a murder mystery that has tainted the image of one of the world's most glamorous holiday spots.

The body of Suzy Mostberger, a wealthy French socialite, aged 56, was found in her holiday home on the island last February. After nine months of investigations French police have finally established not only the suspect's fingerprints but also the DNA "prints" of two people, a man and a woman, they believe were involved in the murder.

About 180 fingerprint tests have been carried out on the island without finding a match, and Dominique Bohmert, the investigating magistrate, is believed to be considering the DNA testing of every person who was on the island on the night of the murder.

The fingerprinting has caused annoyance among the wealthy residents of the island. Sir James Mitchell, the Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, has said he will oppose generalised DNA testing, according to French news reports.

Mostberger was stabbed to death with a kitchen knife, and struggled violently with her murderer or murderers before her throat was cut, investigators believe. The murdered woman's relatives have accused the authorities of dragging their feet to protect the image of the island as a haven of tranquillity.

Among the island's regular visitors are pop stars Mick Jagger and David Bowie, while Princess Margaret left her holiday home on Mustique, after suffering a stroke, just a few days before the murder earlier this year.

Le Figaro reported yesterday that the French police are particularly keen to get the guest list for a birthday party held for Tatiana Copland, a wealthy American neighbour of Madame Mostberger, on the evening before the murder. The French investigators have pointed out that a photo of the suspected killer has still not been made public, and they have accused the local authorities of slowing down the murder hunt.



Bin Laden: still viewed as a threat by America

US siege mentality sets in

Los Angeles: The spectre of a new wave of Arab terrorist attacks haunted America at the weekend, both in its multiplexes and in an all-too-real warning from the CIA (Giles Whittell writes).

Opening on more than 2,000 screens across the country, a new film, *The Siege*, starring Denzel Washington and Bruce Willis, depicts a New York, paralysed by a string of bombings and by martial law.

Even as Arab Americans condemned the film's portrayal of Islam, Wall Street was digesting a CIA warning that Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the recent US Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, "will strike again".



"Constantly dealing with mutilated bodies in N. Ireland is enough to give anybody nightmares and depression"

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THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 1998

Wild man of Louisiana set to be Speaker

Gingrich protégé to step into his shoes, writes Damian Whitworth

BOB LIVINGSTON, an accomplished but hot-tempered political manager, looked certain to succeed Newt Gingrich as Speaker of the House after his chief challenger dropped out of the race yesterday.

Once described by his mother as "a lunatic" after she had seen him ranting passionately on television, Mr Livingston will seek to reunite the Republican Party after the bloodletting that followed its dismal showing in last week's elections which led to Mr Gingrich's resignation.

Christopher Cox, the Californian representative who had made a bid for the job, pulled out after a weekend of telephone calls to colleagues revealed that he would not secure the backing of a majority.

"The truth is that the vote is in and Bob Livingston is going to be our next Speaker and I am withdrawing for that reason," he said. "We got to the point where we were having to start fighting for commitments. It's very, very important for us not to push an election for Speaker to the bitter end when we have a six-vote majority in the House of Representatives."

Mr Livingston, a Louisiana representative for 21 years, built his political power base as chairman of the Appropriations Committee which approves all public spending. He owed his position to Mr Gingrich who plucked him from relative obscurity four years ago to give him the chairmanship.

tee and placed an alligator skinning knife, a "Cajun scalpel", on the table in front of him. But he is also renowned for displays of uncontrolled passion.

Clips of him gesticulating wildly on the House floor during the 1995 budget battle, shouting "we will stay here until Doomsday", have been aired endlessly on television.

He attempted to allay suspicions that he lacks the temperament for the job by making light of the incident, saying that even his mother rang him to say, "Hey, you looked like a lunatic. Don't do that again."

He said: "And I didn't do that again. When I am Speaker I will never do that again."

Time magazine also reported that before he challenged Mr Gingrich publicly last week he had sent him a to-point list of demands that would have effectively stripped the Speaker of his powers. A few hours later he called back to tell Mr Gingrich to ignore it.

Mr Livingston is a navy veteran with a black belt in taekwondo. His supporters say he is a pragmatist who proved himself adept at cutting deals on spending, and they insist he will be able to keep the party's far right happy.

"He's going to be like Reagan was," said Peter King, a New York representative. "Reagan agreed with social conservatives on their issues, but he knew it was when and how you push them."



Livingston, renowned for uncontrolled passion

Leading article, page 19



Steven Hoeftlin, the original "Doc Hollywood", who is facing accusations of improper conduct with his patients, in Los Angeles with his wife, Pamela

Face-lift expert in battle to save his skin

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

THE plastic surgeon famous for transforming Michael Jackson and Ivana Trump almost beyond recognition is locked in a \$46 million (£28.7 million) legal battle to save his own professional skin.

Dr Steven Hoeftlin, Tinseltown's undisputed face-lift pharaoh, is being sued for millions by four former employees who two years ago accused him of fondling celebrities' genitals as they lay anaesthetised on his operating table.

This list of charges against the original "Doc Hollywood" has now lengthened. It includes allegations that he tipped off tabloid reporters when his star patients were due to go under the knife, left surgical work to underlings while he went out to lunch, and parked recovering patients — including some whose eyelids had been sewn shut for facial work — in a hospital corridor instead of in \$450-a-night rooms for which they had paid.

Dr Hoeftlin has been a magnet for scandal ever since the same four female employees accused him of sexual harassment in 1995. He settled that suit out of court with five-figure sums for each woman "to avoid any embarrassment" to his clients, his lawyer claimed.

The accusation that he groped his anaesthetised patients has proved harder to shake. An steely-eyed icon to California's nip 'n tuck devotees, he has denied all charges against him as part of an "outrageous" smear campaign, but has failed to carry out a threat to sue *The Washington Post* over an article entitled

"Face Off" in which they first appeared. Instead, Dr Hoeftlin has resorted to a media counter-offensive helped by celebrity friends and clients like Phyllis Diller, the comedienne.

"His work is wonderful," she told *People* magazine — and she should know. Over the years he has performed a breast reduction, a tummy tuck, two rhinoplasties, two cheek implants, an eye-browlift, an eyelift, two face-lifts and a chemical peel for her.

The tactic of speaking out has now backfired. The latest

"The accusation that he groped his anaesthetised patients is harder to shake"

complaint by his former employees, filed last week in Los Angeles Superior Court, accuses him of defaming them in a more recent magazine article in which he called them "sick individuals bent on destroying me".

In the same article his media strategist, Steve Jaffe, called the four "a bunch of losers" who had managed to manipulate *The Washington Post*.

Mr Jaffe should not count on a cordial relationship with Dr Hoeftlin, who sued his last media consultant for overcharging him.

Setback for Clinton as adviser is told he may face grand jury

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE Supreme Court yesterday dealt a fresh blow to President Clinton by ruling that Bruce Lindsey, his close confidant, cannot claim attorney-client privilege to avoid testifying before a grand jury.

In a victory for Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, Mr Lindsey may now be hauled back to give evidence about matters relating to the investigation into the President's affair with Monica Lewinsky. Mr Lindsey has been before the grand jury before but he refused to answer a number of questions.

Although Mr Starr has written his report on the affair

with Ms Lewinsky, it is believed that he might press Mr Lindsey further on what he knows of the President's meetings with Kathleen Willey, who has accused him of groping her in the Oval Office.

In a separate ruling, the Supreme Court denied an appeal by the Clinton Administration against a decision to allow Mr Starr to question Secret Service officers about Mr Clinton's relationship with Ms Lewinsky. Although testimony by six officers was included in Mr Starr's report, the Administration refused to drop its appeal, saying the consequences were dire for the future.

Seth Waxman, the Solicitor-General, had argued that confidentiality was essential to

prevent possible presidential assassinations.

The decisions came as a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee began hearing from constitutional experts on interpretations of grounds for impeachment.

There is a growing feeling on both sides of the political divide that it might be possible now to deliver a lesser punishment, such as a censure, to Mr Clinton.

But with the full hearings on impeachment starting next week, there is uncertainty about how this might be achieved.

It emerged yesterday that tapes of Ms Lewinsky's conversations with Linda Tripp are to be released.

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Paradise island protests at DNA testing

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PEOPLE of Montserrat, the Caribbean island, are protesting against a DNA test to identify the remains of a man who was killed in a plane crash in 1981. The test is being carried out by the British government as part of an effort to identify the remains of a man who was killed in a plane crash in 1981. The test is being carried out by the British government as part of an effort to identify the remains of a man who was killed in a plane crash in 1981.

mentally dealing mutilated in N. Ireland tough to give nightmares depression.

MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Kosovo rebels deal blow to peace hopes

THE Kosovo Liberation Army killed two Serb hostages in the early hours of yesterday morning after an American initiative to forge a ceasefire around the guerrillas' former headquarters of Malisevo had been blown apart in a KLA rocket and grenade assault on the town's police station.

The hostages, both police reservists, were apparently forced to kneel at the side of the road two hundred yards from their besieged colleagues in the station, before being raked with at least 24 bullets fired from a machine pistol.

Their deaths represented a crushing reversal for the Americans' go-it-alone policy in Kosovo; only last Friday, Christopher Hill, Washington's negotiator in the peace process, had visited the villages around Malisevo and pleaded with the guerrillas to stop their often unprovoked attacks on Serb security units in the area.

But the hostages, who were attempting to deliver food to the police station, were captured just hours after he had left, and the KLA has subsequently shown that it is determined to push the Serbs out of Malisevo altogether.

The station was last occupied by the Serbs over a decade ago, but under the recent

Killing of Serb policemen puts fragile truce in jeopardy, writes Tom Walker

secretive agreement between NATO Supreme Commander Wesley Clark and President Milosevic, it was decided that Belgrade should be allowed to keep its units in the town as a means of countering the KLA's stranglehold over much of the surrounding territory.

The incident provided the Serbs with a graphic opportunity to reveal the brutality of the KLA's methods, and the media centre in Pristina took a convoy of journalists to Malisevo to survey the grisly scene. Beneath a heavy winter sky and denuded trees thick with snow, the two policemen, Ilije Vujosevic, 48, and Dejan Djatlov, 23, lay face-down just east of the town's main crossroads.

An investigating judge accompanied a rubber-gloved police pathologist, who rolled the bodies over, revealing the full extent of their injuries to the assembled cameras. The pathologist, in a green camouflage body suit, fished out the dead men's identity cards for the benefit of state television. "You can see they were tortured before being killed," commented a shaken Colonel Bozidar Filipic, police spokesman for Kosovo.

A bizarre sideshow then developed, in which a Day-Glo orange American humvee pulled up from the opposite direction, only for its driver, a Contact Group observer, to be harangued by police officials who accused him of removing a key witness from the scene. "He won't come back now whatever I tell him to do," protested the American. "We were doing all we could."

Realising that he was within earshot of journalists, he changed tack and insisted he was in Malisevo because of engine problems with his vehicle, and then beat a hasty retreat to the accompaniment of much police cursing. There are already ominous signs that the relationship between international monitors in Kosovo and the Serb security forces is going to be strained at best.

Another American vehicle, a Chevrolet Suburban in a similar shade of orange and containing David Scheffer, the State Department war crimes envoy, then passed on the other side of the crossroads, without stopping. How much longer the Americans keep up their efforts to broker a deal in the area remains to be seen. "It was one hell of a firefight last night," admitted one Western diplomat, who said he had been inside the police station just an hour before the first rocket crashed through a third-floor window. Diplomats in Belgrade are worried that Mr Milosevic may be prepared to use the continuing fighting around Malisevo as an excuse to send his special units back into central Kosovo. Several truckloads of heavily armed police were heading west from Pristina as darkness fell yesterday. "We are just sitting here," said an officer outside the Malisevo station. "It doesn't matter how many



A Serb policeman guarding the spot yesterday where his two colleagues were shot dead, apparently by members of the Kosovo Liberation Army

of us there are. The point is they are attacking us." □ **Beas:** Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, yesterday pledged German participation in a Nato security force that will protect international observers monitoring a shaky peace in the Serbian province of Kosovo.

After an hour-long meeting in Berlin with Nato Secretary-General Javier Solana, Herr Schröder said that there would be no doubt about Germany's willingness to meet its international obligations with Nato.

"It is clear that Germany will meet the obligations of its alliances without any ifs, ands, or buts," Herr Schröder said at a news conference. He did not go into the details of how Germany would contribute to the force.

He also said that Germany would take part in protecting observers with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The 54-nation OSCE is scheduled to run a mission to secure a truce in the province, where Serbian security forces began a campaign in February to crush guerrillas from the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army. About 2,000 "verifiers" will be sent in to protect a fragile peace in the region, 200 of whom will be German.

Britons killed in Angola raid

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TWO Britons have been killed and a third taken hostage in a hit-and-run attack by rebels on a Canadian-owned diamond mine in Angola, the company reported yesterday. The three were not named.

Sunday's attack was on the Yewwene mine in northeastern Angola. At least five people were killed. Guerrillas from the rebel Unita movement have stepped up raids on Western mining concessions after

the breakdown of an agreement with the Angolan Government to share the proceeds. Unita, which has fought a bush war for 20 years, has financed its operations from diamond smuggling.

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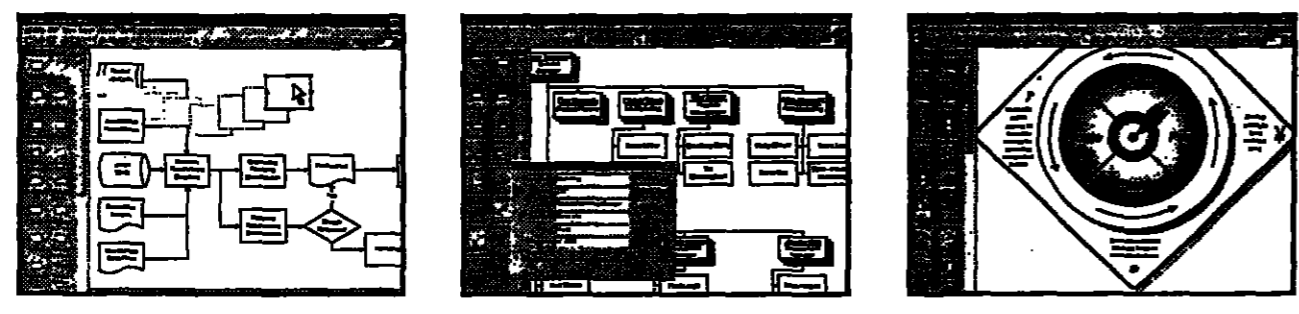
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Unconditional love is the key

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD ON NURTURE IN THE NURSERY

Politicians who were fool enough to pontificate on "back to basics" need the day but for a parent to talk about parenting is even more dangerous. Parliamentarians were reckless to lay down rules on morality, for the Palace of Westminster is the largest glass house in the world. Parenting is even more of an uncharted minefield than that of sexual mores. Hence Philip Larkin's bitter lines: "They tell you up, your Mum and Dad? They may not mean it, but they do."

Oscar Wilde's observation also lives on: "Children begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them." I don't know why I have such forgiving children, but around 40 years on we all seem to get along quite well. Certainly our meals together are still as uproarious as ever, and the conversation as uninhibited.

Like the French, when our children were small, we had Sunday lunch out. In this way there was no tension over the cooking, no recriminations if the meat was underdone or overdone. All present could shout

their views across the table, undeterred by the fact that they were not respecting the efforts of the cook. One of my sons said that, when asked where he had been educated, he always replied "in numerous restaurants, all over London."

One of the sadnesses of being an inner-city doctor is to see that, although most parents are every bit as instinctively self-sacrificing as a partridge which feigns a broken wing as it hazards its life for its young, some parents reject their children, fail to establish any rapport with them, and are both physically and mentally harsh. These, the unwilling parents, are probably beyond redemption.

Parents unable to forge longed-for links when their offspring are at a particular age should take comfort they may manage a better relationship with the children when they are older. Until then, they should console themselves that however hampered their parental efforts may be, what matters in the long term is the quality and quantity of love they feel,

even if they cannot always express it. Fortunately, my medical practice has always spanned wide differences in income groups and educational backgrounds, but whatever the circumstances, it is clear that some parents are born great while others acquire greatness through learning.

Although Dr Spock was the guru of my generation, I infinitely prefer Professor Ronald Illingworth's books, and used *Babies and Young Children* and *The Normal Child* as my guides to childcare in the ward or at home. The book which was most useful to my patients was *Do Babies have Worries?* by June Bingham, written for the then National Association of Mental Health and brilliantly illustrated.

Mrs Bingham and I seemed to share the same prejudices. Not for Mrs Bingham the Jesuit aphorism that the child's character is formed in the first seven years. We believed that it is how they are loved and treated as babies and toddlers that determines their future development.

Those parents who cannot love their children but regretably have some should seek professional advice. Otherwise, lack of parental enthusiasm and skills will perpetuate a cycle of emotional deprivation.

Love in the nursery can be divided into three types: affectionate and accepting; smothering; and dutiful. Only one of these — the affectionate, accepting love — is truly helpful. Affectionate and accepting parents offer unconditional love. Children are terrified that they may lose their parents' love and cannot distinguish between sin and sinner. If they are naughty, and the naughtiness is mishandled, the child can be left thinking that not only is their domestic misdemeanour rejected, but they are rejected too.

Children should learn that however much one may be displeased by their actions, parental love goes far deeper than any transient irritation caused by broken flower vases, food refused, relatives insulted or dogs'

tails pulled. Accepting love must also mean that we love our children just as much when they are bottom of the form as top, when they are looking as smart as a guardsman or as bedraggled as a Glastonbury traveller.

In dutiful love, the parents' love is conditional. The child believes that the parents love him or her only because the accident of birth thrust the duty upon them. They feel the love is fragile and could be withdrawn if they lose their parents' approval and fail to succeed. The children subconsciously realise that there is a danger that the love may evaporate if they are too much trouble, too disgusting, too noisy — in fact, too human. The child is therefore expected to be understanding, obedient, beautiful and successful.

In possessive or smothering love, the child becomes the emotional crutch and toy of the parent. The parent is dependent on the child and on the child's dependence. Parents want to do everything for the child. They want to be its constant companion, its loved one, and want to deprive the child of the chance of growing up and out into the world.

CHRIS HARRIS



how to be
A GOOD PARENT

Why I believe in arguments

LADY LONGFORD PUT CHILDREN BEFORE CAREER

The Countess of Longford gave up a chance of a career in Parliament when her political masters forbade her to have more children. She had contested Cheltenham for Labour before the Second World War and Oxford immediately after. She was in line for a safe seat when the edict came that shocked Elizabeth Longford, whose pioneering slogan was "a full life and a family life".

She was, by then, a mother of six. "They said 'Any more and you can't stand for us'. I was so annoyed with my party for asking me to promise not to increase my family that I had two more. I'm so glad I chose babies rather than a seat in the Commons."

Lady Longford directed her ambitions into journalism, family life being her speciality, and later into her acclaimed biographies, but she fitted work around her eight children. Rather than make her own name in politics, she supported the political career of her husband, Francis Pakenham, who became the sev-

enth Earl of Longford and is most associated with his work in penal reform.

Despite the constraints of the times (Lady Longford's children were born between 1932 and 1948), she had no fears that anything terrible would befall her children if she let them out of her sight. "When my eldest child, Antonia, was born, I remember looking out of my window in London and seeing her in her pram in the square. She was days old and on her own but I never thought that anyone would take her. The only one with any fears was Antonia herself. She had wonderful golden, bubble curls and people would say, 'Will you give me your curls?'"

Her children walked to their prep schools without adult supervision. "If I'd driven them all I'd have done nothing else. It can't be good that children don't walk anywhere nowadays." In London, and later in Oxford, the children played in the street. "Kevin chucked out wickets on the pavement. They had to rely on their imagina-



"A big family learns to discuss things, to keep or lose their tempers," says Lady Longford, mother of eight, grandmother of 26 and great-grandmother of 14

bringings on and rivals who needed suppressing, but I was absolutely wrong. They work things out for themselves."

Lord and Lady Longford were married in October 1931; Antonia was born the following August. "One part of me was keen to have children, another part of me wanted more of a life with Frank first."

While those who want a child of a particular sex now pay large sums to clinics, Lady Longford was one of the first exponents of DIY methods. The radical gynaecologist Naomi Mitchison had explained her theories of pre-determining the sex of a baby through douching, encouraging an acidic or an alkaline environment. It worked.

All Lady Longford's births were at home. "I'd already imbibed the importance of the father's presence. It was an eye-opener for Frank. After Antonia's birth, I said I wasn't having any more, but Thomas came 11 months later. There was no epidural then, but for

his birth I asked for gas." She disagreed with opponents of pain relief in childbirth. "When anaesthetics came in during Victoria's reign, people said you couldn't love your child unless you suffered."

Influenced by her husband, she became a Roman Catholic but does not agree with Rome's ban on family planning. "I used natural and artificial methods to space my family. If I was having children now, I'd be tempted to plan too much: I don't suppose I'd have eight." Lord Longford, entering the room, asks mischievously: "At what moment did you decide to go in for the big time?" This sets off a discussion on the greater role that today's fathers are expected to play. "I wasn't welcome, butting into the kitchen," he says.

"Probably, I was rather bossy and preferred to do a lot of it myself," admits his wife. "Frank was very good when the children became intelligent human beings who could argue. If the girls became de-

pressed, he bought them hats. I did the same but they weren't forced to listen. In the holidays there would be a reading before lunch and another at bedtime. They'd all sit around me. This depends on the parents being at home, which they may not be these days.

"My children were allowed to listen to the wireless only on weekends. They rebelled but there was only one set in the house."

Lady Longford taught one son, Kevin, at home for a year because he was not ready for school. She used home course books topped up with poetry, drama and nature studies. "We found a moth chrysalis that was about to hatch and put it on the nature table. We watched the moth creep out with trembling wings — then a sparrow darted in and swallowed it whole. Kevin let out a heart-breaking scream.

"My children weren't indulged. They had to recite a

classics until we were about 14. I did the same but they weren't forced to listen. In the holidays there would be a reading before lunch and another at bedtime. They'd all sit around me. This depends on the parents being at home, which they may not be these days.

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"My children weren't indulged. They had to recite a

poem after lunch on Sundays before they got their pocket money. If they saw something they wanted in a shop, they had to wait until Christmas or a birthday."

Lady Longford says parents have a duty to address sex education, "but if it's uncongenial to them, schools now do a good job". Her own mother, a doctor, told her nothing, so the young Elizabeth believed a friend who said menstrual blood was "milk gone bad". Her brother observed the silkworms he kept "and worked it out for himself".

Lady Longford broached the subject too early with Antonia: "We were walking along a lane in Oxford and I was really getting into it. Suddenly a little voice said 'I've heard enough. Mother, I don't want to hear any more.' She was seven and I realised that I'd been ramming it down her throat."

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One aspect of modern family life that disappoints Lady Longford is the disappearance of family meals. "I was rather shocked when two of my grandchildren came in while I was visiting their parents and, after being sweet to me, went to the fridge and took some food to wherever the television was."

"I was thrilled to discover that my daughter Rachel [Billington, the novelist] holds discussions over Sunday lunch. The children describe the most memorable event of the week, then the parents give theirs."

"My children had a cooked meal at school. When they came home they'd sit round the tea table together. Frank and I dined later. Antonia complained she was drinking milk in the hall until she was 17."

"They had bread and butter, Marmite, jam, cakes and buns, nothing meaty. I was thinking more of their social training than their vitamins. They were never forced to eat anything."

"If you're lucky enough to have a big family, they learn to discuss things, to keep or lose their tempers. Visitors would be shocked by the arguing that went on. There were two of my children I thought needed

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TUES
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Calais
begins with...

The day a sexual ingénue met Russia's fabled seductress



Sir Isaiah Berlin (1909-97), the philosopher, historian and diplomat, was seduced by the spirit of Anna Akhmatova but remained chaste on his side of the room

Isaiah Berlin refused to write an autobiography. But he agreed to talk about his past to Michael Ignatieff and from this has come the first full, authorised biography. In this extract he tells of the encounter which mattered to Berlin more than any other — his meeting with one of the great figures of the Russian intelligentsia, the poet Anna Akhmatova

In Leningrad in 1945, Isaiah met Anna Akhmatova, a poet of the pre-revolutionary era who had not been allowed to publish anything since 1925. Most of her apartment was occupied by Akhmatova's ex-husband, Nikolai Pumin, his wife and child.



Erotic interest: the poet Anna Akhmatova, 1889-1966

Akhmatova had a room overlooking the courtyard at the end of the hall. It was bare and demured: no carpets on the floor or curtains at the windows, just a small table, three chairs, a wooden chest, a sofa, and near the bed a drawing of Akhmatova — head bent, reclining on a couch — rapidly sketched by her friend Amedeo Modigliani during her visit to Paris in 1911. It was the only icon of a Europe she had last seen 34 years earlier. Now stately, grey-haired, with a white shawl around her shoulders, she rose to greet her first visitor from that lost continent. Isaiah bowed — it seemed appropriate — for she looked like a tragic queen.

She was 20 years older than he, once a famous beauty, now shabbily dressed, heavy with shadows beneath her dark eyes, but of proud carriage and coolly dignified expression. As they sat down on rickety chairs at opposite ends of the room and began talking, Isaiah knew her only as the brilliant and beautiful member of the pre-revolutionary poetic circle known as the Acemists as the brightest star of St Petersburg's wartime avant-garde and its meeting place, the Stray Dog Café. But of what had befallen her after the revolution, he knew nothing. There was nothing falsely melodramatic about her tragic air. Her first husband, Nikolai Gumilyov, had been executed in 1921 on trumped-up charges of plotting against Lenin. The

years of terror had begun for her then, and not in 1937. In the late summer of 1945 her son Lev, released earlier from Siberia to serve in the Soviet Army in Germany, at last returned home. She allowed herself to hope that her life might finally be about to improve. Her conversation with Isaiah at first was formal and constrained. The room was poorly lit: she sat in one corner, he in the other, smoking Swiss miniature cigars with their plastic handles. Her face was wreathed in shadow, his in

smoke. She began asking him about her Russian emigrant friends. He was able to tell her that he had met the composer Arthur Lurie in New York during the war. She had had a brief affair with Lurie, in the far-gone era when she had frequented the Stray Dog Café and he had composed futurist music for performance there. In her eyes, Isaiah was serving as messenger between the two Russian cultures — one in external exile, the other in internal exile — which had been split apart by the revolution. In the poems she wrote after his departure, she said that Europe was putting out its leaves: that a green shoot from the culture that had once been hers had at last coiled its way into the Fontanny Dom.

But she was categorical about the question of emigration. She would never leave Russia. Her place was with her people and with her native language. Isaiah was quite sure he had never met anyone with such a genius for self-dramatisation — but, at the same time, he recognised that her claim to a tragic destiny was as genuine as that of anyone he had ever met.

He had always sought validation by genius: it mattered intensely to him that Virginia Woolf, Freud, Wittgenstein and Keynes had all seen his worth. But this encounter mattered more than any other. Here was the greatest living poet of his native language talking to him as if he had always belonged to her circle, as if he knew everyone she knew, had read everything that she had read, understood what she said and what she meant. In reality, of course, this was an illusion: he knew far less about her than she supposed. Nonetheless, a moment of the purest communication, such as occurs only once or twice in a lifetime, was taking place. It was three in the morning

when her son, Lev Gumilyov, arrived. He was two years younger than Isaiah — 34 to Isaiah's 36 — and phenomenally well-read and educated despite having been arrested at the age of 24. He had read Proust and Joyce in the original, despite never having left the confines of the Soviet Union, and obviously thought of himself, like his mother, as preserving European standards of culture against the Soviet tide. He had been arrested for the crime of having Nikolai Gumilyov and Anna Akhmatova as his parents. Now he seemed convinced that his misfortunes were over and that he would resume a scholar's life in his native city. He went into the kitchen alone and found some boiled potatoes in a dish. His mother was embarrassed by the meagreness of their hospitality, but Isaiah remembered with pleasure how they divided the clutch of potatoes in the dish and ate them together in the near-dark room, by the glowing stove.

When her son had left, they talked about their favourite authors and for the first time began to disagree. He shared her reverence for Pushkin, her distaste for Chekhov's "mud-coloured world", but he could not share her love of Dostoevsky, and she had no time for his affection for Turgenyev. These were not mere differences of taste: they marked the boundaries between their emotional worlds — Isaiah drawn to the lightness, delicacy and irony of Turgenyev, but repelled by the violence, darkness and emotional intensity of Dostoevsky; Akhmatova identifying with Dostoevsky's intense depiction of inner states, and unable to bear the delicate subtleties of Turgenyev.

Now or was this their only disagreement. Isaiah idealised Tolstoy for the breadth of his historical vision, while Akhmatova was repelled by what she regarded as his sexual hypocrisy. In allowing Anna Karenina to be hounded to her death, she said, Tolstoy had capitulated to the philistine social conventions he said he condemned.

Isaiah was pleased to discover her scornful, sarcastic and slightly malicious side; then the queenly demeanour was replaced by something more humorous and human. She spoke amusingly about Pasternak's recurrent crushes on her; how, in the 1920s, he would come over and sigh that he could not live without her, only to tire and beg his wife to take him back home.

She confessed how lonely she was, how desolate her Leningrad had become. She spoke of her past loves and, moved by her confessional mode — but also perhaps to forestall her erotic interest in him — Isaiah confessed that he was in love with someone himself. Akhmatova seems to have passed on a wildly garbled version of these remarks about his love life to Korney Chukovsky, whose memoirs, published years later, referred to Berlin as a Don Juan disembarking in Leningrad to add Akhmatova to his list of con-

quests. Akhmatova seems to have been responsible for this *malentendu*. It has hung over their encounter ever since. No Russian who reads *Cinq*, the poems she devoted to their evening together, has ever been able to believe that they did not sleep together. In fact, they hardly touched. He remained on one side of the room, she on the other. Far from being a Don Juan, he was a sexual neophyte alone in the apartment of a fabled seductress, who had enjoyed romantic attachments with half a dozen supremely talented men. She was already invest-

ing their meeting with mystical, historical and erotic significance, while he fought shy of these undercurrents and kept a safe intellectual distance. They parted without embracing. At the train station on the border with Finland, a venerable Soviet lady customs official looked over the books, inscribed by the proscribed poet, bowed gravely and let him pass through the looking glass into the other world. Absently he journeyed through Helsinki, Stockholm and a Paris as "clean, beautiful, silent and empty" as a tomb. After a brief stopover in England, he returned to Washington. But his thoughts stayed with Akhmatova, for in a letter written in late February he was still talking about his visit as "the most thrilling thing that has ever, I think, happened to me".

The last of Isaiah's encounters with the great figures of the Russian intelligentsia occurred in 1965, when he managed to persuade Oxford University to grant Anna Akhmatova an honorary degree. He had telephoned her in Moscow in 1956, and she had received the news of his marriage with icy silence. They had both decided that it was not safe to meet. When she duly appeared in Oxford in June 1965, Isaiah was shocked to see how she had aged. She had gained weight and he thought a little unkindly, that she resembled Catherine the Great. But she carried herself like an empress and delivered her opinions with imperial force. When she arrived outside Headington House and surveyed the splendid garden, the three-storey Georgian house and Isaiah's new wife, she observed caustically: "So the bird is now in its golden cage." The spark that had leapt between them 20 years earlier was now extinguished. He could only secure for her the recognition in the West that was her due: she could only acknowledge it with regal hauteur. He accompanied her as she stood in the Sheldonian

and heard herself acclaimed in Latin as "an embodiment of the past, who can console the present and provide hope for the future". She departed for Paris and home, and Isaiah never saw her again. She died the following year. His anti-communism had always been a declaration of allegiance to the intelligentsia, of whom she was the last surviving heroine. After her death, he exclaimed to a friend that he would always think of her as an "untortured, unbroken" and "morally impeccable" reproach to all the Marxist fellow travellers who believed individuals could never stand up to the march of history.

● Extracted from Isaiah Berlin by Michael Ignatieff, *Chatto & Windus*, £20. Times readers can buy a copy for £18 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134459. Copyright Michael Ignatieff

● This book will be reviewed by Anthony Quinton in Thursday's book pages

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Nowt so queer as a minister

Politicians should not be victims of a bitch-hunt, says Michael Gove

Is John Prescott a homosexual? He did seem curious about the press treatment of Nick Brown and Ron Davies. Is he one of the "gay mafia" *The Sun* has warned us about?

The evidence, admittedly, is only circumstantial. Not everyone who opted for the all-male world of the Merchant Navy in the Sixties was gay, and there are several men who have made a career out of waiting at tables who are resolutely heterosexual. The Deputy Prime Minister is, of course, married with children. But then so was Jeremy Thorpe and, of course, Ron Davies. And Mr Prescott's wife, brassy, northern, a hairdresser, even. Well, isn't she exactly the sort of woman gay men adore, a camp icon to rank with Bet Gitty or Barbara Streisand? Go on, John, take advantage of the new tolerance. When it comes to coming out the public can take the rough with the smooth, the Nick Browns with the Chris Smiths.

Preposterous? Well no more so than some of the generalisations which the "outing" of Cabinet ministers have provoked. *The Sun's* political editor Trevor Kavanagh, perhaps our finest tabloid journalist, and a man of usually sober judgment, has been provoked by the revelation that "at least four members of Tony Blair's Cabinet were actively gay".

The right to privacy is a very British thing

Mr Kavanagh fears that there may be more. His reasons? He argues that "politics is a form of ego-tripping performance art which, like the theatre and the law, attracts more than its share of camp personalities". Camp? Ron Davies? The former Welsh Secretary is a brutal fixer who is as camp as Winnie Jones. In so far as his downfall proves anything it proves how difficult it is to know our fellow men, and how dangerous to judge by stereotypes.

Who is the campiest figure in Parliament? Paul Boateng, perhaps, who dresses as though he had been kicked out by Mr Humphries from Grace Brothers. Is he free? Well, young Mr Boateng has five children and a deep Christian faith. If he's homosexual then he's going a funny way about it. Although those who are apparently exercised about homosexuality in public life seem confident in their generalisations about gay men — camp, performance artists, mafia-like and so on — they are still surprisingly at a loss to know just who fits the bill. They've got an Identikit photo but so many of the suspects don't just match the stereotype. So, unable to trust circumstantial evidence, *The Sun* insists on a confession, demanding "we have a right to know".

No we don't. We have a right to guess, gossip, speculate, and even draw conclusions. We have a right to be prejudiced against the camp, to stereotype performance artists and to tolerate gay Agriculture Ministers. But we do not, and should not, force people to declare their

sexual preferences just because they are in public life. The closet's a fine and private place, so leave them there if they want to embrace.

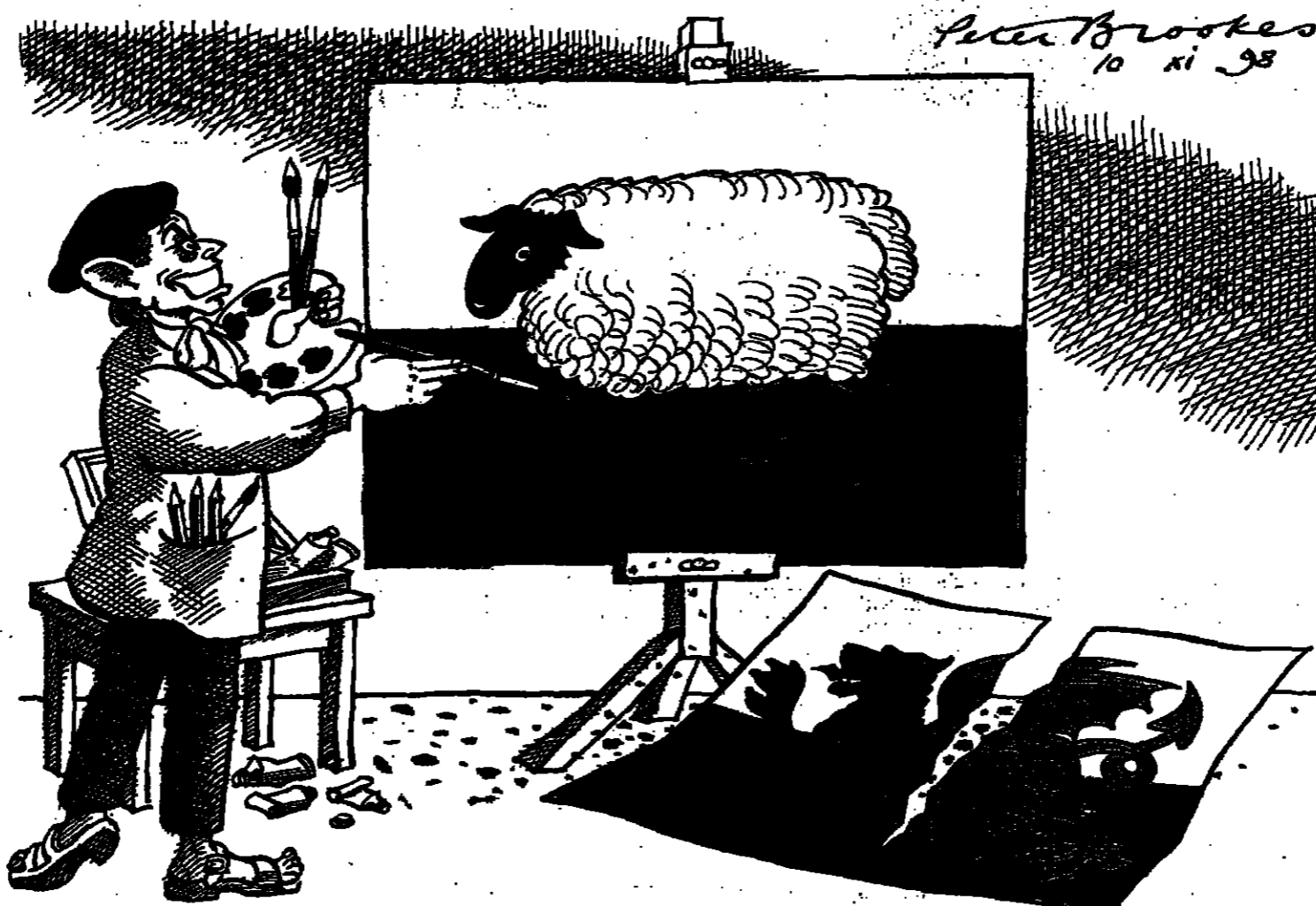
Ministers have fashioned a rod for their own backs, if that is not too camp a metaphor, by insisting that public figures who are Freemasons disclose their membership. Their witch-hunt against those innocent souls who enjoy charitable work while wearing aprons is childishly illiberal. The right to privacy is a precious, and very British, thing. There are few questions as odious, and as alien to our ears, as the McCarthyite sneer: "What have you got to hide?" Just because the Government is inaugurating a witch-hunt against Freemasons shouldn't mean the media can launch a bitch-hunt against the camp.

The suggestion that there is a Velvet Mafia in the Commons, a pink ring of Labour hussies and a Primrose League of Tory trouser-droppers, is no justification for an hysterical campaign of outing. If politicians push an agenda, on the age of consent, for example, which observers consider ill-judged, the argument should be fought on the high ground of reason. If lowering the age of consent is wrong, then it is wrong whether it is advanced by Peter Tatchell, Jack Straw or Cardinal Hume. Ad hominem arguments are, invariably, weak.

It may be argued that there is something qualitatively different about a "gay mafia" that distinguishes it from, say, a Scots mafia in the Commons. Despite the ease with which some would stereotype both homosexuals and Scots it is easier to spot the latter. As anyone who saw the World Cup will know, the Scots are more likely to cry in public.

Because Scottishness cannot be hidden, but homosexuality can, there are fears that agendas will be hidden, too. They may be. But it doesn't matter. If more members of the Cabinet were outed it might be shocking for their mothers, it might tell us something sobering about how difficult a political career is for those with families, but it wouldn't alter the wisdom, or folly, of individual policies. Tax increases hurt just as much whether inflicted by the gay, straight or celibate.

Politicians advance all sorts of schemes for all sorts of motives. Distasteful as love for those of the same sex may appear to many, is it any more distasteful than the self-love which drives so many politicians? The towering egotism which led Michael Heseltine to devote millions to the Millennium Dome is a more corrupting infatuation than the tendresse his successors may have had for any individual. I would rather the love that dare not speak its name than the love which builds a monument to itself at my expense. And I would rather not have to think about what John Prescott gets up to in bed.



"THAT'S MORE LIKE A WELSH ASSEMBLY LEADER..."

When Dilly went to war

Amid the pomp and the poppies, a Suffolk farmworker reminds us of the quiet heroes still in our midst

I know what I shall think of during the two minutes' silence tomorrow: a bill in Southern Italy. For earlier this year we went to Monte Cassino with our friend Dilly, and no history lesson, book or film has ever brought war home so vividly. We rightly remember the dead, and study the generals and the poets; but sometimes it is good to be reminded that still in our midst, saying little, are hundreds of quiet old men with memories to make your hair stand on end.

George Sharp, universally known as Dilly, is a Suffolk farmworker. His wisecracks are familiar to anybody who followed my husband, Paul Heiney, through eight years of farming columns in *The Times*. We knew Dilly had a war record, mainly because the first time our sheep got loose on the marsh, he dived through a hedge to cut them off, roaring "Haar! I was with Monty, in the desert!" Another time our son interviewed him about the battles of Monte Cassino for a primary school project, and he reluctantly gave a few details of the terrible ascent of the Rocca Janula, climbing the ridge over the bodies of dead comrades because "You just followed orders, see?"

Mainly he did not speak of it, but kept his chickens, hoed our mangels and grew impressive vegetables. Lately, though, he let slip that he was thinking of taking a trip with his friend Shirley to see Monte Cassino again. "Check up on it." He is not in the habit of leaving Suffolk, let alone England; talk of an organised "battlefield tour" was shelved with horror when he discovered that there were lectures. "Don't want a lecture. I was there." Diffidently, we suggested that during that March travel-doldrum when airlines offer improbably low fares, we should come, too, ease the way and drive the hire car. We said we would be honoured to go with a real veteran. We did not know how honoured.

We picked them up at 3.30 cooking porridge, bacon and eggs. "Got to get these shoes he was 18 years old, off on a troopship with the Norfolk and Suffolks to an undeclared destination which turned out to be Africa. At Gatwick, he remarked without awe: "Last time I went on a plane, I had to sit on my pack." At Naples airport — we fancy ourselves as European

travellers but actually speak very little Italian and generally resort to strangled British gestures and monosyllables — Dilly deployed Tommies' Italian from 1943, becoming again a confident 19-year-old lance corporal in charge of his own Bren gun, with a cheerful "Fello, Gianni!" for allcomers. With a few words and many flapping gestures of the elbows, he readily conveyed to assorted car-hire officials that last time he was here, the trouble was the Germans had pinched all the chickens, making it hard to live off the land. "Tedesci — had the chickens — boom boom boom!"

We drove north up the autostrada, odd memories surfacing. "Gor — how it rained. Rained all that winter. We slept out in that rain every night, under a gas cape." We paused for a sandwich; at the service counter Dilly picked up a self-assured young Serb, hitching to Bologna to meet a lorry bound for Belfast. He aimed to be a nature-warden in Londonderry. Old wars and new merged: all this boy's family, he said, were killed in Sarajevo. Dilly told him how his company forded the swollen river on the march from the Adriatic. "The major swum it ahead of us with a tug-of-war rope, the rest of us waded through, up to our chests, holding the rope."

We drove on: Dilly told us about the landscape of 1943 and the women in the fields with mancocks; about the high time they caught a pig and ate it, and the thrill when lush American food parcels were accidentally dropped among British troops pale after months of bully-beef and biscuits. Then we saw Monte Cassino. Dilly craned out of the car, saying "Worth it. Just to be on this road". Our luggage was full of history books but we had not quite understood the chronology. At 19 he had seen the medieval Benedictine monastery at

and chicken-houses; he identified the spot, unchanged except for a few rockfalls. We looked for a while, took a picture, and left. Next day was the plane home.

Last time Lance Corporal Sharp left Italy, it was a longer business: a march northward, mopping-up battles, Pisa, then Bologna, where news came of the German surrender. Then a spell on garrison duty in Austria ("Schönbrunn Palace — nice place") and a victory march past Marshal Zudkov in Prague. We had some times wondered, we children of a supposedly sophisticated age, where the old man with the hoe got his breezy self-assurance. Now we knew, like tens of thousands of other Tommies, before he was 20 he saw death and despair and triumph, judged officers and men against lurid horror, marched through the heart of Europe and into history.

When his country had finished with Dilly it gave him a suit, a pair of shoes, a hat, a raincoat and a rail warrant home to Darsham. He walked home from the station, and his mother got his tea, and that was the end of Dilly's war. So he tended cows and hoed beet for 50 years, and minded his own business.

I do not quite know why it moves me so. Remembrance Sunday is for the dead, and poppies for the damaged survivors; Dilly was luckier, and came home. Maybe it is just that only the contemplation of such a long, well-led unpretending life can bring home what it was that the other boys lost. There were tens of thousands of them, as willing and dutiful, as brave and full of fun and fond of stolen chickens. The only difference is that they did not grow old.

The old soldiers who visit their friends in the cemeteries know this very well. But as a nation we have changed, losing notions of virtue and obedience and sacrifice. Sometimes it seems that we have become a generation of litigious whippersnappers, where survivors sue for trauma instead of lighting candles of thanksgiving, and oven doctors and policemen clamour for the label of victim. A curtain of understanding and expectation, usually impenetrable, has fallen between the generations. We were glad, over those few days, to have that curtain raised.

Libby Purves

she is looking for a Scottish castle. Warning comes from the Duke of Hamilton, with a little pad of his own to maintain: "The thing is to avoid the dereliction we have already seen." A likely target is Trenchard Castle (price just £5.5 million) which "has plenty of room for Cher to rattle around in".

Nana no, no
NANA MOUSKOURI has peevish Lord Plumb. Our mature burgundy of an MEP was to be serenaded by the Greek at a retirement dinner. Plumb expected Nana at the Fitzville Pump Room with just a

Benjie's bash
OUT and about in London this week will be Benjamin Wegg-Porter. Peter Mandelson's portable brain and emergency dinner date. Ben has been invited to *Tatler's* Little Black Book party at Mr Chow's, a smart singles night for young eligibles (the recently wed Santa Palmer-Johnson and Simon Sebag-Monfere are there). Ben, more manly than Manly, might side up to an illustrious invitee: the Princess Royal's tongue-studded daughter, Zara Phillips; Peter loves a royal.

DAMP Highland air could soon fill the minute ribcage of Cher. The chanteuse, pictured, tells me that

guitarist but the diva (a fellow MEP and chippy about the Elgin Marbles) demanded to bring her 12-piece band, and wanted £10,000 expenses. "She wanted to come like a big star," says Dr Puck Werwyn, Plumb's chairman. "I had to say, 'Bye bye, Nana!'"

LORD HUNT was asked by Lord Longford why he sent two others to the peak of Everest rather than climb it himself. "I believe in ruling from the middle," Hunt replied. "Just like Atlee," reflects Frank. "Very astute."

Pigging out
DRUNK on set. No, not Peter O'Toole, but a Grey Berkshire pig, playing Napoleon in a film adaptation of *Animal Farm*. Shooting in Co Wicklow was halted when he reported unable to continue.

There was Guinness mixed with feed, says an animal rights type. "Any farmer that raises pigs in Ireland will tell you Guinness is good for 'em — they give it to racehorses. It was a little unsteady and I understand there may have been some snoring." Yet on site Finbarr Heslin reports: "It seems that the pig had been fed more than it should — it is playing the lead — and was over the limit. When it came round in



The morning it didn't even appear to have a hangover. Shocking."

MY favourite with cocoa and slippers, Francine Stock, above, late of *Newsnight*, is to publish her debut novel, *A Foreign Country*. "It is about judgments," she says. "I read *Italian* at university and came across papers about emigrés which set me thinking. I was ill a few years ago and realised that becoming a grand old dame and turning out books was remote."

JASPER GERARD

A Labour rake's progress

The Tory legacy is being squandered, says John Redwood

This afternoon, at the Tories' request, the Commons debates the state of manufacturing. The Government claims factories are closing because of world factors. We have been predicting for some time that there will be a manufacturing recession. Opinion is divided on whether it will spread. We have no wish to talk the rest of the economy into recession, but could Conservative policy have avoided the damage being done?

Certainly. Our policies would have concentrated on creating a better climate for business, with less cost and lower interest rates.

We supported the Government's decision to keep to our spending plans for the first two years in office. To some extent it did so. As a result, it began its rake's progress from a solid position. We supported it when it came forward with a welfare proposal that cut the bills. We have backed the sale of the air traffic control system and encouraged the sale of shares in the Post Office. We welcome sensible moves to promote more employee shareholdings as a way of motivating and rewarding people for success.

Unfortunately, even in the first two years the Government deviated from our spending plans. It spent wildly to little effect on the Welfare to Work scheme. It started to tinker with the welfare system more generally. And then it decided that it could make a huge increase in public spending, especially in welfare, in the second half of the Parliament. We gave warning that the country could not afford these plans. We pointed out that it meant interest rates too high, taxes too high or borrowing too high.

If the Government had kept family credit instead of replacing it with working families tax credit, it would have saved us a lot of money. After years of battling with the welfare bill, the last Conservative Government brought it under control in the last two years. Labour have thrown that away in 18 months. They promised us a mantle reform which would free more money for health and education. Instead, the increase in welfare is about the same size as the combined increase of health and education.

They needed a huge increase in taxation, especially on businesses and motoring, to pay for their spending plans. Some £25,000 million extra business tax over the lifetime of this Parliament hits industry hard, as it struggles to handle sterling and high interest rates at the same time. Fitting motorists when no better alternative has been provided for many journeys is another block to business success. We would neither have raised welfare spending nor business taxes in this way.

We would have increased health and education spending, afforded by the natural increase of revenues from growth in the economy and from the modest inflation of wages and prices. Labour's much-heralded increases are smaller than many we made, year after year.

Allied to their high tax-and-spend policies have come a series of measures which have deliberately hiked the costs of doing business. The Working Time regulations will cost businesses £2.3 billion in a full year. The minimum wage will cost at least £2.9 billion. Other social measures from London and Brussels will cost the rest of this Parliament. Much of the money is swallowed up in extra bureaucracy; it does not find its way to the low paid.

Labour have thrown in the towel on their minimum wage. They advertised it as a way of taking people off benefit. They disagree with the Opposition idea of a minimum income, rather than a minimum wage, where the wage is topped up by family credit if necessary. Now they have invented a system where even more people will depend on top-ups. Families will get little or no benefit from the higher minimum wage where they are on very low incomes, because benefit will be withdrawn as the wage goes up.

Two years ago Britain was the first choice of many multinational for a new investment. They were attracted by the relatively light business taxes, the less expensive regulations than on the Continent and by the favourable business climate. Now Britain is often the first choice for closure; we have lost our edge. It doesn't take very much to tip the balance and it doesn't take very long. Labour have stumbled into placing too many straws on the industrial camel's back.

So what should be done? The Government should delay or cancel many of its expensive social and employment measures. It should return to Brussels and insist on changes. It should abandon plans to disrupt industrial relations with new laws. It should reduce public spending, so that the Bank of England wants to cut interest rates more. It must make it more worthwhile to make things in Britain again. Manufacturing recession is not all industry's fault. The plans which were productive and profitable two years ago suddenly face closure. The main reason is the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

Abbey ahoy!

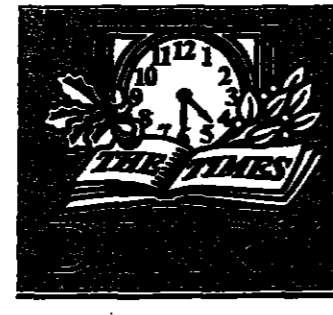
SIR WALTER RALEIGH is to go up into a puff of republican smoke. The Dean of Westminster and Betty Boothroyd want to replace the statue of Elizabeth I's favourite. He has long cast an explorer's eye over the Ministry of Defence, but now Sir Walter looks likely to be shunted off to the Abbey. The future of the life-size bronze, by William Macmillan, will be decided by Westminster Council later this month. The statue, unveiled in 1959 by John Hay Whitney, American Ambassador, was commissioned to mark the 350th anniversary of the landings at Jamestown, Virginia.

Supporters of the move say the statue is dwarfed by the bronzes of Montgomery, Albion and Slim. A better home, the Very Rev Wesley Carr and the Speaker believe, would be outside St Margaret's Church, where the adventurer was executed and buried. Nicholas Soames, the former Minister for Defence, supports the move: "I always thought it was in the wrong place."

However, Andrew Roberts, the historian, detects the waft of political correctness from anti-imperialists such as George Robertson, the Defence Secretary: "These patriotic pirate adventurers receive a bad press nowadays," he says. "There is stacks of space outside the MoD. I hope this has nothing to do with Walter being a slave trader and our first tobacco-



BEING bombarded with bras and knickers by frenzied fans used to be a pleasure reserved for rock stars. But if proof were needed that gardening has become the new sex, look at Alan Titchmarsh. The fragrant BBC weed exterminator was drumming up interest in his new book about McGregor (a sexy TV gardener, naturally) when a woman from the audience, overcome by something, sprinted up to the stage and unleashed a triple-D bra at Titchy. "This is not a plant, so I have nothing to say about it."



he noted, cool as a cucumber in early April. Oh Alan!

DAMP Highland air could soon fill the minute ribcage of Cher. The chanteuse, pictured, tells me that

هكذا من الأصل



AFTER GINGRICH

An internationalist departs the Washington stage

Anyone who cares about isolationist trends in American politics, and who understands the importance of America's continuing engagement in the world's affairs, should be concerned by the end of Newt Gingrich's tenure as Speaker of the US House of Representatives...

gramme capable of winning back the votes that have deserted it this time. The significance of his departure extends, however, well beyond domestic politics...

AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE

Closed lists are bad for democracy

At every election in British history, voters have placed their crosses against the candidate of their choice. Next year, at the European elections, the Government would like to break this tradition...

drawn up by their party - the so-called "closed" lists. If the Government fails to overturn the Lords' amendments, voters will be able to elect the candidate of their choice from an "open" list...

ASSISTING THE SISTERS

A Women's Unit still has a job to do

Newspaper stories about "girl power", about more female than male undergraduates, about women being better suited to new jobs than men, may suggest that a Women's Unit in Whitehall is hardly now required...

male colleagues. And most teenage girls are likely at times to agonise about their weight and lose confidence in themselves. Enlightened employers already recognise the importance of helping parents of both sexes to combine their work with their family responsibilities...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Public interest in sexuality of MPs

From Mr R. Temple Sir, The media has every right to disclose and discuss an MP's sexual orientation (reports and leading article, November 9) so long as Parliament continues to decide such matters as the age of homosexual consent...

Homebuyers may not be helped by vendor surveys

From Mr Raymond Durrant Sir, The Government's proposal that houses and flats should be offered for sale with structural surveys carried out before the property is offered in the market...

per cent is well chosen, being sufficiently high to act as a real deterrent against capricious withdrawal and low enough not to be ruinous if one or the other party has to cancel for unforeseen reasons.

The people who will lose out will be the cash buyers who don't need to pay a professional to tick a box to tell them what they can see themselves.

Yours faithfully, R. TEMPLE, 3 Bramble Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1SY, November 9.

From Mr Keith Parkinson Sir, The inherent problem in the seller providing a survey and results of searches lies in the fact that the seller can later accept another offer using the same survey and searches...

Yours faithfully, KEITH PARKINSON, Flat 30, Morumouth Close, W4 2LJ, November 5.

From the Chief Executive of the Architecture and Surveying Institute Sir, Two years ago, following lengthy consultation between the nine major surveying bodies, the Construction Industry Council published a document entitled Definitions of Inspections and Surveys of Buildings...

From Mr A. John Corbett Sir, It is useless for politicians to protest that their private lives do not affect the discharge of their duties...

From Professor Emeritus Leslie Collier Sir, The convoluted and expensive methods now being suggested to avoid gazumping would be quite unnecessary under the French system...

From Mr John Ratcliffe Sir, I cannot see why sellers paying for home surveys will prevent gazumping; but hopefully it would end the irritating problem of more than one survey having to be paid for to satisfy different potential lenders...

From Sir Nicholas Couper Sir, Giving estate agents and home-owners the responsibility of providing a "seller's pack" to include a valuation and a survey is like putting the sharks in charge of the aquarium.

Yours faithfully, A. J. CORBETT, 15lares, Long Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 9QT, November 9.

From Mr D. H. Drew Sir, You report (November 4) that the Government wants more employee share-ownership schemes. The thinking behind all these schemes is that the employee, as a part owner of the company, allies himself more closely with his company and that through his hard work and good management he can increase the value of his shares...

From Professor Dylan Jones-Evans Sir, Whilst commentators have been examining the macroeconomic effects of the Chancellor's pre-Budget statement, the continued reform in small business policy has been largely ignored...

From Dr David Abulafia Sir, Frederick II of Hohenstaufen was indeed small and ugly, as you report. The Muslim custodians of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem described him in his thirties as red-faced, balding and short-sighted; he would have been worth only 200 pence (dirhams) in the slave market.

Mandelson edict

From the Controller of Editorial Policy, BBC

Sir, Mr Peter Ainsworth, MP (letter, November 5), asks why it was thought uniquely necessary for the BBC to apply a code of silence to an individual Cabinet minister? It was not. The BBC's position on this is clear; it has been so for many years and applies to everyone...

Business schemes and Brown's plans

From Mr D. H. Drew Sir, You report (November 4) that the Government wants more employee share-ownership schemes. The thinking behind all these schemes is that the employee, as a part owner of the company, allies himself more closely with his company...

possible to the one you work for. If you work for a company producing suntan lotion, invest in a company producing thermal underwear, say, and you should win whatever the weather.

Emperor's new clothes

From Mr Brian Conneller

Sir, I see you are promoting Frederick Hohenstaufen as a goodie (report, November 3; see also letter, November 4) largely on the rather shaky theory that anyone who quarrels with the Pope must necessarily be one. You report that he was loved by his subjects. Runciman, on the contrary, thinks him "unlikeable, cruel, selfish and sly"...

Yours faithfully, PHILIP HARDING, Controller, Editorial Policy, British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, W1A 1AA, November 5.

From Mr R. Wilson Sir, I was taught that to invest in your employer's shares is a bad policy because, if the company performs badly, not only may you lose your job but your investment will at the same time lose much of its value. Better to invest in a company whose products meet as complementary a market as

From Mr R. Wilson Sir, I was taught that to invest in your employer's shares is a bad policy because, if the company performs badly, not only may you lose your job but your investment will at the same time lose much of its value. Better to invest in a company whose products meet as complementary a market as

By contrast, his near contemporary, King Edward I of England, was 6ft 2in tall. Yours sincerely, DAVID ABULAFIA (Author, Frederick II: a Medieval Emperor, Pimlico, 1992), Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge CB2 3TA, November 4.

'Wicked' chocolate

From the Director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance

Sir, In her article "Wicked Temptation" (Crème de la Crème, November 4), Katherine Bergen describes some of the main ingredients in "commercial chocolate bars" as "... saturated vegetable fat and powdered milk". This is incorrect. Most milk chocolate manufacturers in the UK use fresh liquid milk in their products...

Aid to Afghanistan

From Mr Quentin Goggs

Sir, Neither your leading article of October 30, "Victims of politics", nor Michael Dynes's report (same day) on the decision by Brussels to cut off aid to Afghanistan mentioned the fact that, following President Clinton's bombing of Khost (report, August 21), our own Foreign Office threatened to cut off any Department for International Development grants to charities which did not immediately remove all their expatriate workers and undertake not to replace them...

ground against bin Laden has certainly caused harm to a great many poor people within Afghanistan who know nothing of him. However, both the Halo Trust and the Christian Aid project in Herat, originally financed and driven by a former member of Halo and dividing its efforts between helping women and the relief of mine victims, have continued in full operation throughout the crisis. They expect to go on doing so, despite the efforts of Brussels, President Clinton and the Foreign Office. Both put the people they are trying to help first.

Getting in line

From Mr G. A. McKenzie

Sir, I think that Mr John Maher (letter, November 6) is right: queuing was abandoned in England until comparatively recent times. I remember, as a schoolboy in the later 1930s in what is now part of South London, that people waiting for a bus would stand around in the general vicinity of the bus stop sign. They would not stand close to strangers and would affect a certain nonchalance. However, everyone had taken note of those arriving later and, when the bus arrived, sharp tongues were sufficient to correct anyone attempting to board out of turn. I think that the unEnglish (un-British) queue is a legacy of the Second World War and yet another symptom of moral decline.

Yours sincerely, JOHN NEWMAN, Director, The Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, 37-41 Bedford Row, WC1R 4JH, November 6.

Under surveillance

From Mr Anthony G. Phillips

Sir, Your brief report (November 3) of a train driver caught on film playing a fruit machine while officially on duty, typifies the extent to which we are under surveillance, often without our knowledge. Most city centres, motorways, banks and building societies have cameras trained on you. Even in private homes, nannies may be secretly filmed. I have read recently about "intelligent" cameras which can distinguish facial features and may be

used in conjunction with databank photographs to track known criminals, subversives and others (report, Sunday Times, November 1). Telephone tapping requires authorisation, yet the use, and possible misuse, of cameras in public places proceeds largely unnoticed. Even George Orwell might have been surprised. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS, 32 Upper Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 8LY, November 4.

Worth a flutter?

From Mr John W. Holladay

Sir, I too am in my sixties and suffer from a weakening heart (report, "Loren admits heart problem", October 29) so please, no more photographs of Ms Sophia Loren, no matter how small. Yours faithfully, JOHN W. HOLLADAY, Middlepiece Cottage, The Street, Bessingham, Norfolk NR11 7JR, November 2.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 9: The Queen, Patron, and the Duke of Edinburgh...

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, patron, the Basic Skills Agency, will attend their annual conference...

Meeting

Royal Overseas League Dr B. Lang, Chief Executive of the British Library...

Sheriff's reception

High Sheriff of Greater London

The High Sheriff of Greater London and Mrs John Gough gave a Reception for the Judiciary of Greater London...

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 9: The Duke of Gloucester, Commodore, Royal Ulster Yacht Club...

ST JAMES'S PALACE

The Prince of Wales this morning visited Skopje Stock Exchange, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia...

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 9: The Princess Royal, Patron, College of Occupational Therapists...

Funeral service

General Sir Kenneth Darling The Queen was represented by Brigadier David Bignart...

Dinners

The Athenaeum Mr Patrick Brennan was a speaker at a talk dinner held last night...

Christening

The infant son of Captain and Mrs Jamie Newall was christened Harry Ridsdale...

Legal appointment

Mr Charles James Bowring Kemp, Mr Andrew Gordon McDowall...



A painting by the Italian artist Luca Signorelli, 1441-1523, entitled 'The Circumcision'...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Martin Luther, Protestant reformer, Eisenben, Germany 1483...

Deaths

COLLIERIE - At the Princess Royal Hospital, Enfield, Essex...

Church news

Appointments The Rev Roger Anders, NSM, New Mills (Derby), to be NSM, Adderley, Ash, Colverhall...

Birthdays

Sir Peter Baldwin, former civil servant, 76; Mr Robert Carrier, cookery writer and broadcaster, 75...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G.T.G. Collier and Miss M.E. Turner The engagement is announced between Geoffrey Thomas Grey, son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Collier...

Nature notes

Crows of fieldfares are coming into Britain from Scandinavia. They are large thrushes with a grey head...

Carmen's Company

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Customers can be trusted, says study

THE dog-eat-dog world of business can be remarkably honest when it comes to stealing other people's ideas (Rodney Hobson writes).

EMU threatens cashflow of smaller businesses

By ROONEY HOBSON

A TIDAL wave of late payment could follow the introduction of European economic and monetary union, Allied Irish Bank said at a seminar in London last week.

Delegates heard that EMU could pose a further threat to the cashflow of small businesses in an economic climate that is already tightening. The bank urged businesses to take immediate action to build closer relationships with customers, suppliers and banks and make EMU an opportunity, not a threat.



John Kilby said banks should help firms to make the euro transition

Bureau matches buyers with sellers

BUSINESS people aiming to buy companies are being matched with owners wishing to sell by a newly formed commercial marriage bureau (Brian Collett writes).

Jonathan Hick, one of the founders of the MBI Register, discovered that potential buyers did not want their existing employees to

know their intentions, and that owners seeking to sell did not want their employees to find out and were uncertain how to dispose of a company.

Edward, a banker, runs the London office. The non-executive chairman is Michael Frank, a former merchant banker.

Jaguar takes the driving seat to save energy costs

By BRIAN COLLETT

SMALL manufacturers supplying Jaguar in Coventry are saving on energy and other costs under an environmental project introduced by the car company.

matched by finance and consultancy from Jaguar and management time from participating businesses.

Federation urges fresh rate cut

A FURTHER half-point cut in interest rates is needed, according to the Federation of Small Businesses in the light of a survey painting a gloomy picture of the economy (Rodney Hobson writes).



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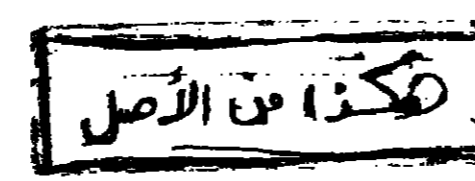
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Makes the seat to 'gy costs

Established finance and consultancy firms from Jaguar and management from participating businesses. Mrs Blackburn said that the Euro fund up to January, was likely to be reduced because the project was unlikely to be successful in the short-term programme. She feared the participating companies would lose their new practices because they save money.

Federation urges fresh rate cut

IF ANOTHER half-point cut in interest rates is needed, according to the Federation of Small Businesses in the light of a survey painting a gloomy picture of the economy (Rodney Hobson writes). The federation found that three in four of the 16,000 small businesses that responded were less optimistic about the prospects for the economy than they were a year ago. Only one per cent were happier. The report released last week coincides with the meeting of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee. It urged a basic rate cut of a full percentage point. The committee opted for a half-point cut. However, just over half the respondents said that turnover had fallen in the past 12 months.

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Cowboy advisers take money and run

By Rodney Hobson
A TEAM of grant cowboys has been rounding up hundreds of pounds from companies in East London. Business Link London City Partners fears. Often the only advice given by the rogue advisers is: "Contact the local Business Link."

Plausible approaches offering help for companies to find out whether they are eligible for government, EU or local government grants emerge with regular monotony, despite repeated warnings that business advisers, trade associations, chambers of commerce and bank managers are more reliable sources of information and can often provide the information free. Alison Ball, manager of the Hackney branch of City Partners, has come across several companies that have been cheated. She says: "What these cowboys purport to do is to help companies to find grants in return for a fee. In fact all they do is pocket the fee and then write a letter referring you to the Business Link. If you try to follow up to complain or get your money back, you find that it is impossible to track them down. Fortunately those who already use our services check with us first and this has prevented them from wasting their money."

"We think this kind of activity is pretty rife and the cases we know of may just be the tip of the iceberg. The problem is that not many businessmen like to admit they have been conned in this way." The first approach to companies is by telephone and an appointment is made to discuss the grant funding services they have to offer. Huseyin Demriol, managing director of Oakwood Fashions, was among the companies approached. He said: "The appointment is kept by a very plausible and very convincing salesman equipped with impressive-looking documentation. Through the judicious use of the European stars and top-quality materials it almost looks as though the service has got government support. Then they get the client to sign up on the spot and pay up in advance."

The fee is usually between £350 and £500. Some time later a letter arrives on high-quality paper saying that the client has a good chance of obtaining a grant and that they should contact the local Business Link.

Swanky progression leads to crowning achievements

Tiaras help two niche jewellers to get ahead creatively, writes Bernard Silk

When they met on a Sheffield Polytechnic degree course, Michelle Morgan and Vivienne Ridley did not expect that they would one day be running a thriving business — selling tiaras. The women, both 30, launched their Swanky company six years ago with the help of a £600 loan and a £1,700 grant from the Prince's Youth Business Trust. Now based in Stockport, Greater Manchester, they sell to both private clients and business customers across Britain, Europe, the United States and Australia.

Tiaras have lost their aristocratic image. Swanky tiaras — priced from about £30 to £200 — are mainly bought by brides-to-be, although they are popular with some young nightclubbers too.

Miss Ridley said: "When we graduated, we realised that there wasn't any job on offer which would allow us to do exactly what we were hoping — with a large creative influence."

The two decided to start their own company and began by designing jewellery on a kitchen table.

Miss Morgan said: "First, we did hand-crafted silver. That was expensive, time-consuming and difficult to sell. Next, we designed



Michelle Morgan, left, and Vivienne Ridley say tiaras are popular with brides-to-be and nightclubbers

power jewellery, which sold quite well in high street shops, but we couldn't compete with import prices."

After spotting tiaras being used as accessories in a fashion magazine, the women decided to produce

their own. They made some on silver-plated wire frames encrusted with beads, pearls and semi-precious jewels. A local bridal business took them, and sales were encouraging.

Now bridal magazines ask to use

Swanky tiaras in fashion shoots, a valuable source of publicity — and sales. Projected turnover for this financial year is £75,000.

"Tiaras are a niche market — there's a lot of competition, so you must have something special and a

bit different," said Miss Morgan. "Our tiaras have simple, contemporary lines which are updated regularly."

"This year we have used a range of different materials including crystals, leathers and multi-coloured beads. Our daisy theme range has also proved popular."

The two women will soon have a Web page on the Internet, so that potential customers can have access to pictures of their products.

The page will also simplify overseas sales, at present needing a banker's order, which can be complicated and costly to administer.

"An Internet site will allow us to offer a credit card facility, which will be more secure and efficient," said Miss Ridley. Brochures and promotional material will still be produced, she said.

When the National Wedding Show — which features wedding gowns, accessories and ancillary services — is held at G-MEX, Manchester, from January 29 to 31 next year, the Swanky range of jewellery will be on show.

"Probably 90 per cent of our tiaras go to the bridal market, along with our matching jewellery," said Miss Ridley. "We make products to order. Clients can ring, write or call and tell us what they would like — we can incorporate colour themes into a tiara, for example, to match the fabric design."

Word of mouth publicity is helping to build sales, Miss Ridley said, with orders from bridalwear firms as far away as Japan. "We intend to expand our range and may hire staff to cope with increased production from next year," she added.

Swanky is on 0161 4741440

By Rodney Hobson

Reduction in closures among smaller firms

THE number of small business closures continued to fall in the third quarter in spite of the slowdown in economic growth, Barclays Bank figures show.

Smaller businesses seem to be less badly affected than larger ones, the bank believes. At 111,000, the number of closures between July and September was 5 per cent lower than in the corresponding quarter of 1997. Meanwhile the 118,000 start-ups were only marginally down on the same period last year, so the stock of businesses has increased to 2.66 million, up 1.2 per cent over 12 months.

Mike Davis, managing director of small

business banking, says: "Recent business surveys that have indicated a sharp deterioration in the fortunes of small and medium enterprises tend to concentrate on the larger SMEs. Our start-up and closure figures provide a much more direct measure of the effects of economic conditions on smaller businesses."

"While we are seeing a slowdown in

growth in the economy, it is likely that the full impact may not be felt by small businesses until next year."

Meanwhile, the suggestion that larger rather than smaller companies are finding the going tougher is only partly borne out by the latest quarterly survey from Euler Trade Indemnity, the factoring and invoice discounting.

Euler says that although the firms that were hardest hit in the third quarter were those with annual turnover of more than £50 million a year, those with turnover of £25 million or less were also badly affected.

Price discounting in the face of intense competition remains rife and is depressing profits, Euler says.

Cancelled orders remained at a high level and firms reduced inventories of raw materials, work in progress and finished goods.

The average payment delay from UK customers stayed at 25 days beyond the due date for payment, although clothing firms paid ten days later than they did 12 months ago. Export payment delays were at their highest since the last recession.

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Gascoigne looking fit for success

The (former?) England midfielder made a useful contribution to this week's winning team, Nick Szczepanik reports

Gazza is back. Not that he ever left the sports pages, of course — but his display in Middlesbrough's 3-3 draw at Southampton, six days after he won the man-of-the-match award for his performance in Boro's draw with Nottingham Forest, suggests that the (former?) England midfielder is well on the way to recovering his best form.

His goal at The Dell, a perfectly-placed free-kick which curled beyond Paul Jones's left-hand post before swerving back inside, was reminiscent of the dead-ball accuracy of Gascoigne in his Tottenham heyday. Moreover, it was his forward ball that the unfortunate Claus Lundekvam headed past his own goalkeeper to earn a two-point assist (in addition to the three points for his goal) for those lucky enough to have the Geordie in their selections.

Apart from his contributions to the score, a leaner, fitter-looking player than the rotund figure of recent months helped his team overcome the loss of first Robbie Mustoe and then Phil Stamp as the referee, Paul Alcock, brandished two red cards.

Gascoigne was also one of the main contributors to the team chosen by the winner of this week's £500 prize, Raj Basi of Southall, Middlesex, who works at Heathrow Airport for British Midland Airways; however, it is another international midfielder player with a colourful recent past who is the inspiration behind the side.

The team, Ince Is King, is named after Mr Basi's favourite player, but, strangely enough, the Liverpool captain does not appear in the eleven. The reason is simple — that suspension is likely to rule Ince out of too many games.

"I'm a big fan, but he's very temperamental," Mr Basi said. "He's always been my favourite player. I like his gusto, but not his ability to pick up cards."

Like a lot of supporters of West Ham, Mr Basi went off Ince somewhat when he left Upton Park for Old Trafford, but was delighted when the player returned to England after his spell in Milan with Internazionale to join Liverpool, the team to which Mr Basi, influenced by his brother, a supporter of the Reds, had transferred his allegiance. "When he came back to Liverpool, that was it."

With the self-styled Guv'nor out of contention for a place in Mr Basi's Fantasy League side, the Liverpool representative in the Ince Is King team is Steve McManaman, who weighed in with two points on Saturday, but Paolo Wanchope, who scored for Derby at Anfield, got three: an ever-present



WEEKLY WINNER

Ince Is King XI	
Ed de Geoy (Che)	3
Gary Neville (Man)	3
Steve Guppy (Leis)	3
Gilles Grimandi (Ars)	3
David Wetherall (Lea)	2
Keith Jones (Che)	2
Steve Nicholls (Liv)	2
Paul Gascoigne (Mid)	2
Darren Anderton (Tot)	5
Paolo Wanchope (Der)	3
Egil Ostensand (Sou)	5
Total: 31 points	

dilemma for Fantasy League managers whose players are regularly in opposition.

"It's a two-way thing; you're hoping for a goalless draw, or hoping for your attackers to score and your defenders not to get picked. That was a reason for picking Gilles Grimandi — he usually only plays in the easier fixtures." On Sunday, however, Grimandi helped Arsenal keep a clean sheet against Everton, thereby earning three more points, a total equalled by Steve Guppy of Leicester City and Gary Neville of Manchester United, two players who helped to ensure blank sheetsheets at The Valley and Old Trafford over the weekend.

Five points each from Darren Anderton and Egil Ostensand, attacking players he has always rated, helped the total towards 31 points, enough to claim the prize of £500 cash and £100 worth of sports equipment.

Then, of course, there was Gascoigne, a player of extremes, as Mr Basi agreed. "He's going to go one way or the other. When he came back at Southampton on Saturday, I thought: 'Good on you.'"

Plenty of those who are looking forward to a fully recovered Gascoigne providing sorely needed inspiration for England will have thought the same.

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



My name is Paul, and I am a footballer. Gascoigne's visits to The Priory clinic for treatment for alcoholism have, so far, succeeded to the extent that it is now possible to think of him once again as a superbly gifted footballer rather than Gazza, tabloid casualty. Long may the renaissance continue

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	These Ext Beams	Nicholas Keighley	135
2	Hermaphrodites	Michael Langdon	130
3	Headstart Times	Colin Head	127
4	The Mean Team	Adam Harding	126
5	Real Kickers	Richard Michael Fearn	125
6	Football Fancies	Tracy Young	125
7	Waynes Wanderers	Wayne Faulconbridge	125
8	Porno Flick	Richard Verson	125
9	Robert's Rovers	Robert Anderson	124
10	Guy's Stars	Graham Adamson	124
11	Maffos	Malcolm McFarlin	124
12	Shabadi United	Phil Clarke	124
13	Bezzie's Boys	Jonathan Beswick	122
14	Strike Force	Laura Cogan	122
15	Football Footsie	Christina Fernet	121
16	Nash's Champ	Nathan Carroll	120
17	Just A Second FC	David Walker	119
18	Albert Athletic	Nick Dean	119
19	Sillycones	James Begley	119
20	Arks FC	Anthony McFarlin	119
21	Hillbillys Utd 3	Chris Hill	119
22	Ideal Yoffoemen	Matthew Hewitt	118
23	Managed By Faldo	Don Fairley	118
24	Pony Bluebirds	Geraint Jones	118
25	Serious Squad	James Kerr	118
26	Nigel's Team	Nigel Byrne	118
27	Oak Bush Cricket	Alan Cooke	117
28	Biggles XI	Ben Meehan	117
29	Rougham Rangers	Kenneth Smalley	117
30	Concorde 2	Trevor Reader	117
31	Solid At The Back	John Ledhouse	117
32	Suzanne's Slushol	Stuart Laws	117
33	Wb 6	Glen Reynolds	117
34	Pancho's Villa	Neil Sanchez	117
35	Dynamo Greenbay	James Glover	117
36	Edmo Utd Mington	David Edmondson	116
37	Wellfare Wanderers	Nicholas Wilson	116
38	Wot No Owen FC	Graeme Jones	116
39	Placidissima	Reid Glower	116
40	The Monkey Boys	Michael La	116
41	Bush Reds	Simon Thompson	116
42	Vin's Magicians	Malcolm Angus	116
43	The Times Eleven	Simon Jones	116
44	Grampus Gunners	Marion White	116
45	Cyclones	Ron Allport	115
46	Armchair Utd	Susan Howatt	115
47	Playboys	Roger Lisle	115
48	Man In Suits	Tim Manning	115
49	Botany Bay XI	Stephen Brooks	115
50	Theatable Toppers	Ian Welch	115
51	Only Girl United	James Walsh	115
52	Tigons Argyle	James Jones	115
53	Hemby Reserves	Duncan Clark	115
54	In The City	David Mead	115
55	Nalton Six	Tony Gammage	115
56	Best Served Cold	Simon Jones	115
57	Ridgecroft Rovers	Martin Lowe	115
58	Robin's Raiders	Robin Playdon	115
59	Revolution 1	Marian Knapman	115
60	No name	W Edward	115
61	Pagal Alababassan	S B Hussain	114
62	Reeves United	Sally Reeves	114
63	Wolf Pack 11	Christopher Cox	114
64	Brilliantbunches	Rosemary Gunn	114
65	Bazzes Boys	Barry Cecconi	114
66	Jonesofbezzenden	Ian Jones	114
67	Coco Brothers	Sean Eastwood	114
68	Seward City	Steve Clifton	114
69	Five Star Flash	Rites Harrison	114
70	Independents	Steve Coombs	114
71	Nalton Two	Tony Gammage	114
72	Loce Rollers	Alan Garden	114
73	Abby Spurs	Paul Dowling	114
74	Manchester Who?	Tim Gardner	114
75	Holytrump Yaglor	Mike Hawke	114
76	Spartak Moscow	L Samuels	114
77	Larandspayteam	Alan Featherstone	113
78	Dixie's Deans FC	Brian Highdale	113
79	You Lies	Damian Chrenojanjan	113
80	Times For A Win	Chris Steward	113
81	Home Park XI	Kevin Banting	113
82	The Bears FC	Tom Lee	113
83	Globber Champs	Micac Ashdown	113
84	Don Shute	Don Shute	113
85	Philsofballers	Philip Shielis	113
86	Pin-Ups 7	Phil Tuser	113
87	D H D Roma	David Brown	113
88	Throw In Misses	Miles Lawson	113
89	Diabolical Geozors	Stephen Sinclair	113
90	Liver N Onions	Chris Bowerman	113
91	Arh Mega Done 98	Donald McLeod	113
92	Ultra Deep 94K	Mark Montgomery	113
93	Koddy And Kalle	Anthony McMaster	113
94	Kandy City	David Gunerstrom	113
95	Sexy Sunderland	Brian McKeown	113
96	Jessica's Jollies	Jessica Jones	113
97	Rough And Smooth	Steve Martin	112
98	Ogla Gags	Steve Besie	112
99	No name	No name	112
100	Felchingham Town	Martin Stewart	112

Plus 28 other players on 112 points.

FANTASY QUIZ

Last week's poser was easy if you knew your Italians (Materazzi, Tramezzani) and, in double measure, your Leicester midfielder (Muzzy Izzet, pictured twice). And double Z was the distinguishing feature in each name, of course.

What do this week's foursome have in common? Again, easy if you know it.

PRIZES

£500,000 to the manager of the Fantasy League team with the most points at the end of the season. Plus a trip for two to the European Cup final.

£50,000 to the runner-up.

£25,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment, will be awarded to the managers whose teams score the most points in a particular month.

£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment, await the managers whose teams score the most points in a particular week.

£1,000 youth prize: there is also a separate manager of the season Youth League prize of £1,000, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt.

£3,000 additional cash prizes will be announced later in the season.

FANTASY LEAGUE FAXBACK SERVICE

To receive a comprehensive breakdown of your team's performance use our unique faxback service. The service will be updated by noon every Tuesday.

- Make sure you have your 10-digit PIN to hand when you call.
- Pick up the handset of your fax machine (if you do not have a handset then press the on-hook or telephone button instead) and dial 0991 123 720 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4280).
- Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked.
- If you have any problems using this service call 0171-412 3795.

YOUR FAXBACK SERVICE
0991 123 720
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

Calls cost £1 per minute (ex-UK numbers charged at national rates)

As I was saying . . .

A weekend of two halves, so to speak.

Are you referring to the strange split of fixtures over two days? I certainly am. As you know, I have two Fantasy League teams . . . Both equally unsuccessful . . . That may be about to change — but, as I was saying, two teams with a total of twenty different players . . . Twenty? Playing a man short in each side, are you? That's confidence. I must say. Or have you got one team of nine, rather like Middlesbrough at Southampton on Saturday? No, twenty different players. There are two players who appear in both my teams.

Okay, I'm with you. Anyway, I sat down on Saturday evening and worked out all the scores of my players who'd been in action that day, but almost half had yet to play. So on Sunday, I had a load more scores to work out. Yes, why were there four Premiership matches on Sunday? Surely pay-per-view hasn't come in yet, has it?

Well, three of the games included teams who had been in action in Europe in midweek, so I suppose their players were a bit tired. Although Manchester United

straight at you without dropping them. Just ask David James. That's a bit unfair too. You couldn't blame James for either of Derby's goals in their win at Anfield. Have you got any Derby players, by the way?

None who were in action this week, unfortunately. Stefan Schnoor wasn't playing. But otherwise the weekend was quite successful for my squad.

Throw some names at me. Ilic, the other keeper, clean sheet against Leicester after letting in two last Monday; Huckerby and Hasselbaink, goals against Blackburn and Sheffield Wednesday; a nice assist for Michael Hughes of Wimbledon against Nottingham Forest. And Babayaro, your cause célèbre of last season, got Chelsea's goal at West Ham.

That was last season, unfortunately. I haven't picked him this time.

We all make mistakes. But do all these successes mean that you are looking at a weekly prize? I don't think so. The good performances were spread too evenly over my two teams. A squad of two halves, in other words. I'm afraid so.

He said "Great! Two for Dublin". I thought we were off to Ireland for the weekend.

had an easy home game, but still got the worst result of the three on the Sunday.

Well, I'm quite happy about that, because Shay Given, one of my goalkeepers, kept a clean sheet, which doesn't often happen at Old Trafford.

Lucky really though, wasn't it that he happened to be playing a team that was having a bad day. Come off it — he made some good saves. There was one that I remember seeing where he went down among the flying feet to grab a loose ball. And it's a difficult skill, catching shots that are hit

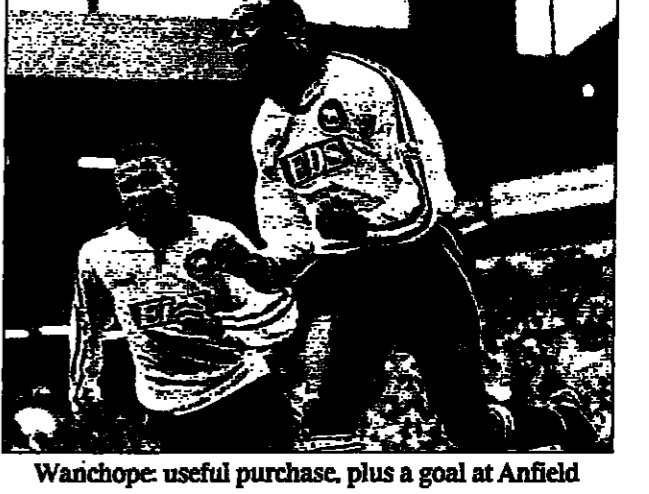
CHECK YOUR SCORES

TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

The top ten of the under-18s.

1	The Mean Team	Adam Harding	126
2	Robert's Rovers	Robert Anderson	124
3	Hillbillys Utd 3	Chris Hill	119
4	Liver N Onions	Chris Bowerman	113
5	Goecur United	Richard Low	112
6	Motor Skills City	Jack Thornthike	112
7	Is It All Over?	Tom Cameron	112
8	Dream Team	Andrew Murray Jones	111
9	Archie of The South	Adam Hill	111
10	Hillbillys Utd 1	Chris Hill	111



Wanchope: useful purchase, plus a goal at Anfield

Importance of striking before the iron's hot

MANAGERS in *The Times* Fantasy League have short-term memories when it comes to purchasing strikers.

The demand for Hamilton Ricard of Middlesbrough, for example, has become massive over the last few weeks, but you can't help thinking that such managers have missed the boat and that the signing should have been completed some weeks ago.

With the vast majority of strikers, goals tend to come in streaks. A run of five goals in five games is often swiftly followed by six games without a goal. The aforementioned Ricard may already have hit eight goals this season, but his hot streak could well be over and he may thus end the season as the fifty point player that we all know he is. Besides, it was only a few months ago that he was classed in the donkey category.

The secret of a top Fantasy League manager is anticipation — this is the difference between the best and the rest. It's fair enough spotting a striker mid-way through a scoring streak, but it's far more rewarding to buy a striker before such a goalscoring flurry.

For example, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink went into Sunday's game in the worst run of his Leeds career with eight games without a goal. With a player so reliant on confidence, the goal against Sheffield Wednesday could bring about an impressive return to points-scoring form for the Dutchman.

Arsenal's Nicolas Anelka is another striker whose confidence is critical to his performance. Five goals in five games is certainly an impressive tally, but once this run comes to an end, it could be a while before he gets another.

There are certain strikers whom you stick with through thick or thin, or forget about completely — Aston Villa's Stan Collymore certainly comes into this category. Stan the Man often suffers from a case of the Collywobbles, but frequently returns to haunt doubters with a brace after no advance warning.

Then we come to the "bread-and-butter" strikers — the players on whom you can rely for forty or fifty points. Dion Dublin's move to Aston Villa can only enhance his steady Fantasy League form of previous years; big Duncan Ferguson of Everton is another certainty for 12 goals a season; and Emile Heskey of Leicester City is a banker for the 40 point mark. You can chuck these guys in at the deep end, knowing exactly how they'll perform during the course of the season.

TRANSFER LINE

Want to make one of your 12 transfers?

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0640 62 51 03
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)

0640 calls cost 60p per minute. Ex-UK calls charged at national rates.

MATT SONS

Labour crisis on Welsh candidate

The Labour leadership was facing a growing crisis last night after failing in its latest attempt to force Rhodri Morgan, the "old Labour" candidate to be the First Secretary of the Welsh assembly, to stand down.

There were fears of party civil war in Wales as Mr Morgan insisted that he would not step aside, although attempts continue to stop him becoming Labour's candidate. Page 1

Starving Russia poses security threat

Russia is on the brink of severe food shortages that could pose a security threat to the West, intelligence sources have concluded. The growing fears confirm Moscow's predictions that supplies could run out in weeks. The European Commission has proposed an emergency package of food aid worth £285 million to stave off starvation. Page 1

Cheap monarchy out

In his clearest vision yet of how he sees the future of the monarchy, Prince Charles dismisses the idea that Britain should copy the slimmed down, cheaper, Scandinavian model. Page 1

MP will not complain

Nick Brown last night acted to bring a speedy end to the controversy over his "outing" as a homosexual by ruling out any complaint about his treatment by the press. Page 1

Hotel opening plan

Round the clock drinking in pubs and clubs at New Year's Eve would be introduced from the millennium under government proposals announced yesterday. Page 1

Surrey's troubles

A bishop drew aside the lace curtains of his affluent, middle-class diocese yesterday to reveal wife-beaters, drug addicts and suicidal executives. The Right Rev John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford, said that the facade of wealth and prosperity in Surrey hid growing problems. Page 3

Violence in the home

Children whose fathers are violent towards them or their mothers are being encouraged to report them to advisers on such problems, or to teachers. Government advertisements will be televised in Scotland over the Christmas period. Page 6

Renovators tunnel out of trouble

A couple who ran into problems when they decided to extend their stone cottage—because a 3ft-wide public right of way ran alongside it—have found an unusual solution. Arthur Baker has provided ramblers with a far-from-scenic alternative route by building a 40ft-long and 10ft-high tunnel under the cottage in Wetley Rock, in the Staffordshire moorlands. Page 8

Ulster compensation

Michelle Fenton was 35 with four young children when the IRA abducted and killed her husband, Joe, in 1989. Northern Ireland's Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme was set up to help people like Mrs Fenton. Page 9

Iraqi pressure grows

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has been warned that unless he begins co-operating with United Nations weapons inspectors, his military infrastructure will suffer "immense damage" from airstrikes. Page 10

Hurricane work woes

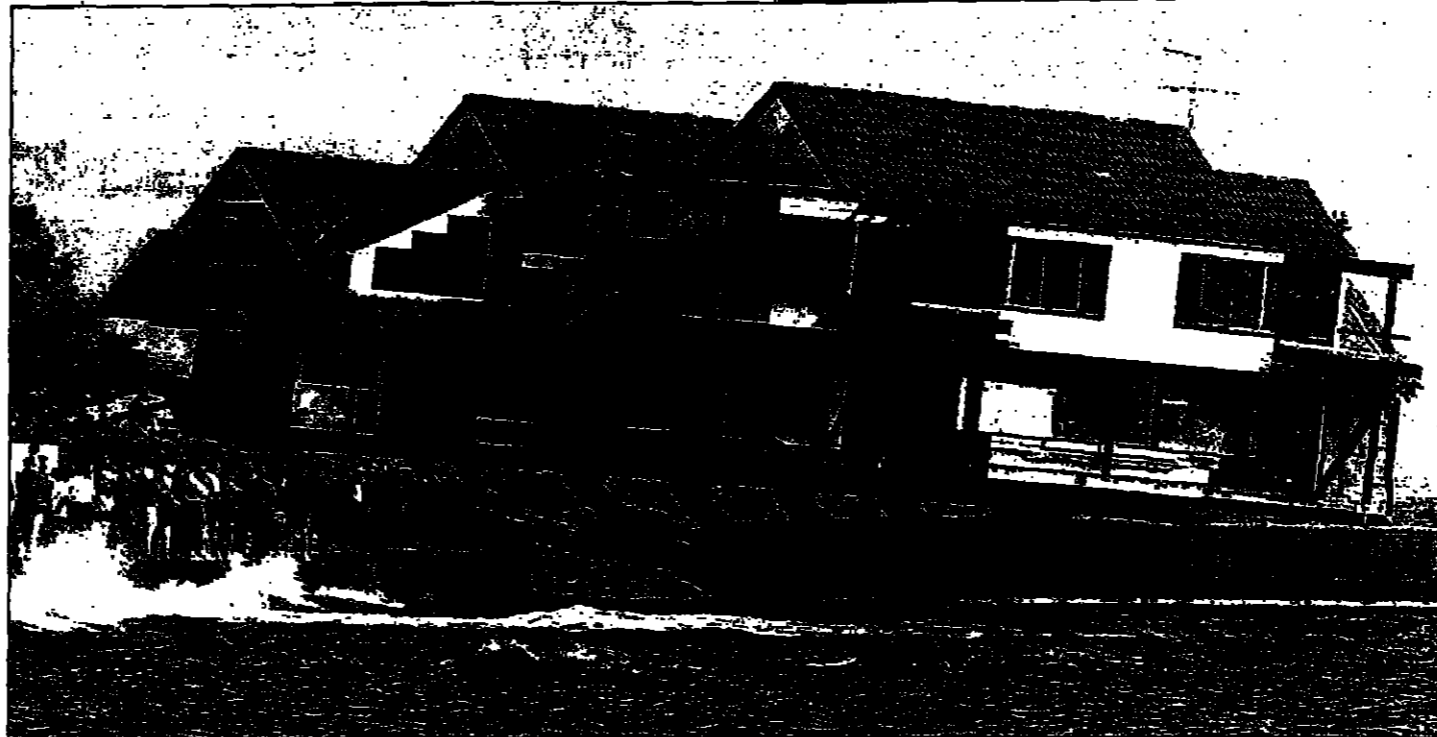
As a huge relief operation began to airlift aid to Central America, the economies of the region have suffered a new blow, with thousands of banana workers facing the sack. Page 12

Serb hostages killed

The Kosovo Liberation Army killed two Serb hostages after an American initiative to forge a ceasefire around the guerrilla's former headquarters of Malisevo was blown apart by KLA rockets and grenades. Page 14

Schröder calls shots

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, is to deliver a personal declaration of independence, outlining a government programme that bears his stamp rather than that of his erstwhile rival, Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister. Page 15



Home delivery: a £300,000 house is backed onto a barge to be transported to a seaside location near Auckland, New Zealand

BP jobs boost

BP is to create almost 3,500 jobs with a £500 million investment in its chemicals operations at Grangemouth in Scotland and at Hull. Page 27

High street sales

Retailers will today report a fall in sales in October, only the second monthly fall since March 1995. Page 27

SA profits fall

British Airways suffered a fall in half-year profits to £38 million from £430 million, affected by a downturn in consumer confidence. The airline proposes to fly smaller planes on many routes next year. Page 27

Marine: The FTSE 100 fell 57.1

to 5433.9. The pound fell 34 cents to \$1.6594 but rose 3.62 pence to DM2.7999. The sterling index rose to 100.7 from 99.5. Page 30

Football: Pierluigi Casiraghi, of Chelsea, will undergo exploratory surgery after suffering a serious leg injury in a collision with West Ham's Shaka Hislop. Page 52

Crickets: Deadlines came and went as talks continued to try to resolve the dispute between West Indies players and their board over the South Africa tour. Page 52

Rugby union: Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, was ruled out of the World Cup qualifying match against Holland by a knee injury. Martin Johnson will now lead the side. Page 52

Athletics: The Puma Edinburgh Marathon, which will take place for the first time next year over a fast, flat course, will have a target of 5,000 entries. Page 49

Tricycle power: Stars including Emma Thompson, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Tom Hanks are helping to relaunch Kilburn's Tricycle Theatre. Page 36

Paris shows: Richard Cork joins the queues for the hottest visual arts exhibitions in the French capital, starting with Van Gogh at the Musée d'Orsay. Page 37

Open house: Richmond's Orange Tree Theatre, revives Terrence McNally's absorbing 1990 play Lips Together, Teeth Apart, set in Long Island. Page 38

Musical mbo How Percy Grainger filled an entire weekend at St John's Smith Square, while Kent Naganjo and the Hallé Orchestra filled the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. Page 38

Parent pressure: For a parent to talk about parenting is dangerous, because parenting is even more of an uncharted minefield than that of sexual mores. Dr Thomas Stuttaford introduces the second part of a series. Page 16

Berlin's life: Sir Isaiah Berlin refused to write an autobiography. But he agreed to talk about his past to Michael Ignatieff and from this has come the first full, authorised biography. In this extract the philosopher tells of the encounter that mattered to him more than any other. Page 17

Small business: The crowning glory of the tiara makers who began in the kitchen. Pages 22, 23

Exploited: Should workers exploited abroad be allowed to seek damages in their employer's home country? Page 39

With food stocks dangerously diminished by a disastrous harvest and the economy still reeling, Russia is headed into a winter of deprivation and discontent. The crucial question is whether Russians will stoically endure another season of hardship, as they have so many times before, or strike out in anger against the political order. The New York Times



SAH MORGAN/MOORE

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

HOMES

People & Property: Selling your house? Soon you'll have to keep a log book for future owners

INTERFACE

Intelligent stadiums: technology transforms the mega venue

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,945

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27.

- ACROSS
1 Bargain King Richard put up front (6).
4 One thus in charge covering staff division under constant pressure (8).
10 Top chef in English officers' mess (9).
11 Quarters provided by a jolly host (5).
12 Memorise line and get ready (5).
13 Operating time in test of shock treatment (9).
14 Carriage for rest of the passengers (8,3).
16 Monarch abandoning seed pearl, for example (5).
18 Unfortunate expulsion of odd characters from islands (3).
20 Youngsters making fuss—not so much to pocket money (11).
22 We beg to differ, taking points to mediator (7-7).
23 Bookmaker's account accepted by that fellow backing (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,944. A grid of letters forming words like RIFERRAFF, INPLOCK, etc.

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with columns for region, road number, and conditions.

Weather by Fax

Table listing weather forecasts for various cities.

World City Weather

Table listing weather for major world cities.

Forecasting

Table listing forecasters and their contact information.

Car reports by fax

Table listing car models and their features.

Star times

Table listing TV and radio program start times.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 46.00% of the total weight for UK newspapers in 1997

QUICK CLUE NO 1

Local hero, pictured right, who risks life without reward (9).

General: dry and fresh with longish spells of sunshine. Rain clearing southeast England during the morning. Showers in NW England, western Wales, Northern Ireland and eastern Scotland. Western Scotland very windy with showers, heavy at times. Tonight dry and cold with a touch of frost in a few parts, especially the North.

London, SE England, E Angles: overnight rain clearing to a fresh, dry day with longish sunny spells. Moderate to fresh S wind, veering NW. Max 13C (55F).

Central N & Central S England, Midlands, E England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: fresher but plenty of sunshine and slight risk of light showers. Moderate NW wind. Max 12C (54F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: sunny spells, a few light showers. Moderate W to NW wind. Max 11C (52F).

NE England: sunny spells, slight risk of showers. Moderate to fresh W to NW wind. Max 11C (52F).

SE England, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: sunny spells and a few showers. Fresh W wind. Max 10C (50F).

NE & NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: sunny spells and showers, some heavy. Fresh to strong W to SW wind. Max 9C (48F).

Northern Ireland: sunny spells and showers. Moderate to fresh W wind. Max 10C (50F).

Irish Republic: occasional shower in the west, otherwise dry with bright or sunny spells. Moderate to light W wind. Max 10C (50F).

Outlook: changeable over next few days, with rain likely for most parts.

24 hrs to 5 pm: moderate; 6-10: drizzle; 11-15: drizzle; 16-19: drizzle; 20-23: drizzle; 24-27: drizzle; 28-31: drizzle.

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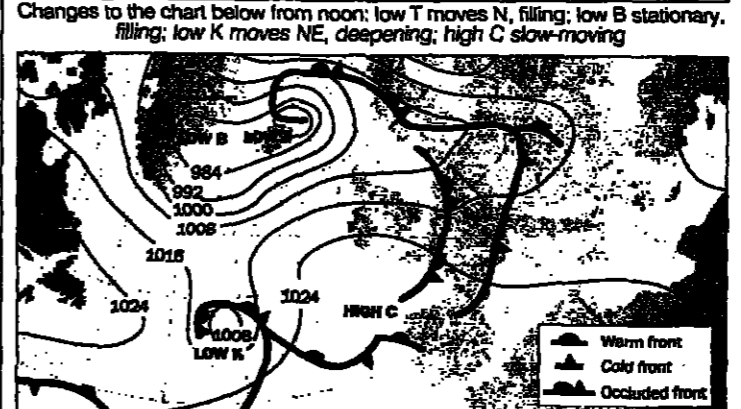
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NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low T moves N, filling; low B stationary, filling; low K moves NE, deepening; high C slow-moving



HIGH TIDES

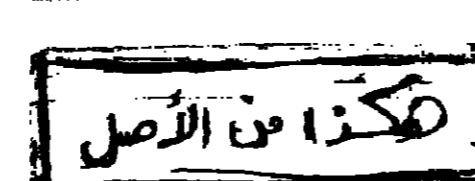
Table listing high tide times for various locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day lamp: Pristina, 17C (63F); lowest day lamp: Aurora, 10C (50F); Highest night lamp: Lucca, 15C (59F); Highest sunrise: Corcor, Norfolk, 7.25

Lifeboats advertisement with statistics: Total number of lives saved so far this year: 799. Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 4,472. Cost to RNLI per day: £197,000. Cost to taxpayer: £0. To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'PLUS: SUN'S CHALLENGE TO MICROSOFT' and 'Merrill leaves floor with F...'.



THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMICS
Anatole Kaletsky on why the financial crisis ended so soon
PAGE 31



ARTS
Why the stars had a whipround for Nicholas Kent
PAGES 36-38



LAW
How Cherie and friends took UK law to China
PAGES 39-41

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 1998

BP creates 3,500 chemicals jobs

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Boost to Scotland and the North East from £500m investment

BRITISH PETROLEUM is to create nearly 3,500 jobs with a £500 million investment in its chemicals business.

The jobs, which will be largely in construction, will go to Grangemouth, in Central Scotland, and Hull, BP is to build two new chemical production plants at the two sites, creating 225 permanent jobs when the plants are opened in 2002.

The substantial development follows a steady erosion of jobs in the North East and Scotland over the past few

months. The regions have suffered problems with key infrastructure investment projects and have seen a series of cutbacks in manufacturing.

Sir John Browne, chief executive of BP, said: "This is an important step in the development of our European chemicals business.

"The North East is an excellent location for manufacturing petrochemicals. This investment will help BP Chemicals to retain and improve its competitive position in the European market."

Ken Jackson, the general secretary of the AEEU, said that the development would mean a "massive boost" to the economy.

He said: "Scotland has been hit particularly hard in recent weeks, but this will increase confidence and attract further investment. We look forward to working with the company to maximise the investment they have made."

Lord Macdonald, Scottish Business and Industry Minister, said: "Building on the success of earlier initiatives, it

should secure Grangemouth's position as one of the top petrochemical sites in Europe. BP is a major player in the Scottish economy and this investment, together with the associated new employment, is excellent news not only for Grangemouth but also for Scotland."

BP's new plants will create 2,200 construction jobs in Grangemouth and 900 in Hull. The developments will include extending BP's pipelines from Teesside to Hull and have been triggered by the company's expectations

that raw material supplies from the North Sea will increase from 2000. It expects to increase the amounts of liquid gas feedstocks from the North Sea.

However, BP is also to cut 150 jobs early in the next century with the closure of a plant at Baglan Bay, South Wales.

Baglan Bay produces ethanol, which is required by BP's Hull plant, but that need is declining. Production of the chemical will be taken over by Grangemouth.

The move is part of a drive

begun by BP in 1990 to increase the competitiveness of its European chemicals operation. It has since sold or closed a string of chemicals businesses. It has also invested more than £1 billion in its integrated oil, gas and petrochemicals centre at Grangemouth.

Grangemouth's ethylene facility was chosen for increased development because it was next to the company's refinery and the terminal of its Forties field pipeline system. Hull has a pipeline link to North Sea

methane. BP also said that government approval for a combined heat and power plant at Grangemouth was critical to the development plans. It won permission to build the power plant, which will generate low-cost electricity, earlier this year.

The boost to the chemicals operation is expected to increase BP's earnings through lower costs in production and logistics.

Bryan Sanderson, chief executive of BP Chemicals, said: "This package of advanced investments will yield enormous value for BP — it will increase mid-cycle earnings by £5 million per annum."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET REVERSES	
FTSE 100	5433.9 (-57.1)
Yield	2.95%
FTSE All Share	2318.1 (-21.41)
Nikkei	14194.54 (-72.57)
New York	
Dow Jones	8877.63 (-97.83)
S&P Composite	1126.95 (-14.05)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	4.75% (4.75%)
Long bond	5.38% (5.38%)
Yield	5.32% (5.32%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-mth interbank	6% (6%)
Libor (Dec)	114.29 (113.63)
STERLING	
New York	1.6590 (1.6593)
London	1.6595 (1.6595)
DM	2.8003 (2.7837)
FF	1.2688 (1.2763)
SFR	2.3141 (2.2731)
Yen	201.29 (198.70)
£ Index	100.7 (99.5)
DOLLAR	
London	1.6595 (1.6728)
DM	2.8003 (2.8100)
FF	1.2688 (1.2763)
SFR	2.3141 (2.2731)
Yen	201.29 (198.70)
£ Index	100.7 (105.0)
Tokyo close Yen	119.41
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$12.55 (\$12.75)
GOLD	
London close	\$292.45 (\$293.35)

High street sales fall raises fresh fear of recession

By Fraser Nelson and Janet Bush

HIGH street sales fell last month for only the second time since March 1995, raising new fears of a sharp deterioration in consumer confidence in the autumn.

Figures from the British Retail Consortium, published today, show that retail sales fell 0.6 per cent last month.

The BRC figures show that the downturn has stretched across every retail sector in October, with ladies' clothing faring worst.

The decline, it says, was caused by many shops putting on sales throughout the month in an attempt to lure cautious shoppers to spend money. Miserable weather was also blamed.

Bridget Rosewell, chief economic adviser to the BRC, said: "These results show that the half-point cut in interest rates announced last Thursday was well timed. The trend is still firmly downwards and will need to be reversed shortly if the economy is to keep growing."

Last week Marks & Spencer, Britain's biggest retailer, described the high street conditions as a "bloodbath" as it announced a fall in half-year profits. Boots also gave a subdued statement on current trading last week.

The BRC said the three-month growth trend slowed to 0.6 per cent — less than half the rate recorded in September.

The City said that the BRC report, together with figures yesterday showing weaker than expected costs and prices

UK FUND managers have turned into strong buyers of Asian stocks and remain buyers of UK equities, according to the latest Merrill Lynch Gallup survey of fund managers published yesterday. These findings tend to support the recent assertion by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, that confidence is returning to the markets.

The survey said the sharp rise in markets over the past month caught fund managers with unusually high levels of cash and most fund managers were now planning to cut cash.

in October. Output prices fell 0.2 per cent in October, giving a 0.1 per cent year-on-year rise. This was the lowest rate since March 1960.

Input prices, paid for raw materials, fell 0.2 per cent to stand 9.8 per cent lower compared with a year ago.

Yesterday Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of Exchequer, faced questions from the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee on the growth and borrowing forecasts contained in last week's pre-Budget report.

Mr Brown was unapologetic about his forecasts that Britain will avoid recession next year and recover to healthy growth in 2000 and 2001. He cited the fact that sterling had weakened by 10 per cent from its peak and also the fact that European export markets, accounting for 50 per cent of British trade, would be growing healthily.

On borrowing, he re-emphasised that his forecasts were based on a cautious assessment of tax revenues. He said that, unlike the previous Government, the Treasury was not factoring in revenues from privatisations that had not yet happened, nor savings on fraud that had not yet been achieved.



Checks away: Robert Ayling said BA was on course for savings of £1 billion a year by 2000

Merrill leaves trading floor with Fleet deal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MERRILL LYNCH, the biggest brokerage on Wall Street, is giving up its physical presence on the New York Stock Exchange.

Its Merrill Lynch Specialists Inc subsidiary will be sold to Fleet Financial Group for up to \$200 million (£120 million).

Merrill's equity trading powerhouse will not be damaged by the move, which is seen as symptomatic of the growing irrelevance of open-outcry exchanges to the financial system. The deal will make Fleet's

JJC Specialists the second-biggest pool of trading personnel on the exchange floor. Of the large Wall Street houses, Merrill has one of the biggest operations on the world's biggest stock exchange.

Exchange specialists execute orders from brokers and trade on their own accounts in vast pits surrounded by monitors. Merrill employed 62 specialists.

The company said that the disposal had nothing to do with its recent announcement

of 3,400 job losses. Merrill lost \$164 million in the last quarter, the first loss since 1989.

Earlier this year, the exchange floor was shaken by a scandal that undermined confidence in brokers' independence. Floor personnel allegedly operated a racket that let them buy shares on their own account ahead of big orders coming. Prosecutors have brought charges against a few brokers, but none at Merrill.

Wall Street toll, page 32

BA plans take flight after results disappoint

By Adam Jones

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to fly smaller aircraft than planned on many routes next year to reduce its vulnerability to an economic slowdown.

Amid anxiety about declining demand for business and first class tickets, BA also said it is unable to meet demand from "premium" passengers on popular services such as Johannesburg to London.

BA had wanted to increase seat capacity by 8 per cent next year. It has cut this to 2 per cent. Asian routes, includ-

ing Osaka, Seoul and Jakarta, are among the casualties.

The cut will mainly be achieved by replacing ageing Boeing 747s with smaller 777s. Cabins will be reconfigured to offer more business and first class seating.

BA was announcing interim results that disappointed the City. It made profits of £385 million before tax for the six months to September 30, compared with £430 million. Analysts had expected between £375 million and £425 million.

Sales rose 6 per cent to £4.7 billion. Robert Ayling, chief executive, said BA is on course to realise planned savings of £1 billion a year by 2000.

He refused to give further details of its Oneworld alliance, which dominates BA's short-term global strategy after regulatory objections bogged down a partnership with American Airlines. The interim dividend is 5.1p a share, up 8 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Halifax denies merger talks

By Marianne Curphey and Caroline Merrell

A MERGER between Halifax and Barclays would be unlikely to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as the combined share of new lending would be less than 23 per cent, it emerged yesterday.

Halifax continued to play down recent speculation linking the former building society to Barclays, Prudential or NatWest. It claimed its continuing share buyback programme was evidence that it was not currently in merger talks.

However, a Halifax spokesman said yesterday that it had

made no secret of the fact that it had a £3 billion war chest to spend on acquisitions, adding: "Everyone is talking to everyone else all the time."

A merger between Halifax and Barclays would be a chance for Halifax to diversify with new income streams to offset competitive pressure in its core business of mortgage lending. Analysts calculate that management would be able to take 8 to 10 per cent out of the cost of the combined company through branch closures and rationalisation of IT.

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MAM looks at hedge fund

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

MERCURY Asset Management is considering launching a hedge fund in an effort to bolster its faltering reputation as a pension fund manager.

MAM, the UK's largest pension fund manager, is thought to have been prompted by Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank which bought MAM earlier this year and which is a big supporter of hedge funds, including the controversial Long Term Capital Management.

Undeterred by the near-collapse of LTCM during the recent stock market collapse, MAM is continuing to "evaluate client demand" for a new hedge fund, although a spokesman emphasised that plans were at an early stage.

The new fund would be run on a "total return" basis. Unlike conventional funds, which are restricted to particular sectors, total return funds can radically switch assets in search of a performance target. This would give MAM the opportunity to use classic hedge strategies such as short-selling—selling shares it does not own—and leverage, which involves borrowing to invest.

If launched, the new fund will be aimed at the big pension funds run by local authorities and blue chip companies, which are increasingly looking at ways to diversify their assets and reduce risk. However, wealthy private investors, would also be targeted.

Since the spring MAM has lost more investment mandates than it has won, including the £1.2 billion mandate from Unilever, which it had shared with Schroders.



Digging in: miners are unhappy with the offer of RPI-1 per cent, having seen the chief executive get a £224,460 bonus last year

Miners threaten strike over pay offer from RJB

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RJB MINING could be on the brink of the first miners' strike for 15 years as anger grows over a pay deal planned by the company.

Two of the main unions have given Richard Budge, the chief executive, an ultimatum to improve the current five-year offer of inflation minus 1 per cent or face a ballot for a strike. Despite the damage that a strike would do to the already fragile industry, it is thought that miners are prepared to take a stand against what they see as an unfair treatment by Mr Budge.

Neil Greatrex, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, said: "There is a feeling that the workforce are not going to be walked all over any more. They have lost their faith in Richard Budge. This is the first time the UDM has considered strike action in 15 years."

Another source said: "This is a difficult time for RJB, but Richard Budge has never demonstrated any willingness to share good fortune. There is growing resentment and people have seen through him."

The UDM, which has given RJB a fortnight to improve its offer, was formed 15 years ago as a breakaway from the National Union of Mineworkers

and industry said it had given no specific guidance on how RJB should be competitive. Earlier this year, RJB's annual report revealed that Mr Budge had been paid £610,000 in 1997. This included a bonus of £224,460 despite the fact that profits fell 9 per cent and the share price collapsed by 75 per cent.

The strike threat comes at a crucial time for RJB, which has still not signed key contracts with the electricity generators. Industry sources believe that the company is downbeat about prospects for the contracts.

Wiseman hopes to serve London

By FRASER NELSON

ROBERT WISEMAN, Scotland's largest dairy company, has lined up about six English sites that it could use as a staging post to move in on London's milk market.

Alan Wiseman, chairman, is prepared to invest £30 million in a new purpose-built site to serve London branches of Tesco, Asda and Safeway, the group's main customers.

However, none of the three supermarkets has yet given assurances of support for the new dairy. Until that happens, Wiseman cannot act.

Mr Wiseman conceded that London is served by plenty of dairy companies, but said that most sites were in poor condition. "The London area is supplied by dairies that were built 40, 50, 60 years ago, designed for glass bottles which just aren't used anymore," he said.

The company, which has 75 per cent of the Scottish market, spent £30 million building a dairy in Manchester four years ago and it said that this had proved a great success.

Mr Wiseman said that the company has received tentative takeover approaches, but had rejected each one. His family owns 50.8 per cent of the company's shares, ruling out a hostile bid.

In the half year to October 3, the company made pre-tax profits of £9.16 million (£8.65 million), sharply ahead of City expectations, as its Manchester plant reached 80 per cent capacity. Earnings per share were 7.54p (7.32p). An interim dividend of 1.4p (1.32p) is due on February 18.

Tempus, page 30

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Legal bill for Astra case to top £1m

THE Government is set to pay more than £1 million to cover the costs of the legal proceedings against the former chairman and directors of Astra Holdings, the UK company linked to the supertanker affair. It was disclosed yesterday, Kim Howells, the Trade and Industry Minister, said in a House of Commons written reply that so far the public has paid £355,500 for the costs of five out of six directors who have been defending themselves against disqualification proceedings brought by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The only significant outstanding costs are those of Gerald James, former chairman of the company, who is receiving legal aid, but whose solicitors have already been paid £400,000 on account. In addition, the costs of the Treasury Solicitor acting for the DTI are estimated at £280,000. The proceedings against Mr James and the directors followed an investigation into Astra, which collapsed in 1992. Mr James made a number of disclosures about the export of arms to Iraq and Iran in 1990. The trial collapsed in April after the disclosure of a letter written by DTI investigators stating that there was no justification for taking proceedings against the directors.

Commerzbank link

COMMERZBANK, Germany's third-biggest bank, and Assicurazioni Generali, the Italian insurance group, have signed a co-operation agreement that will see the companies acquire cross-shareholdings in each other's businesses. Generali is taking a 5 per cent interest in Commerzbank at a cost of about DM1.2 billion (£436 million). Commerzbank will invest the same amount in its Italian partner, giving it a stake of 25 per cent in Generali. The new product and sales co-operation will apply worldwide.

Wyevale acquisition

WYEVALE Garden Centres has bought Kennedys Garden Centres for up to £18.8 million. The price consists of between £12.25 million and £13 million for shareholders' equity and £5.8 million of debt. The purchase is payable in cash and is being met out of Wyevale's cash resources. The acquisition takes the number of garden centres operated by Wyevale to 78. Kennedys operates 13 garden centres in southeast and central England. In the year to December 31, 1997, Kennedys had turnover of £12.69 million, and pre-tax profits of £1.03 million.

Churchill falls further

SHARES of Churchill China, the ceramics manufacturer, lost nearly a third of their value yesterday after the group's third profits warning this year. The shares, which traded above 600p late last year, fell 30p to 87½p yesterday. Pre-tax profits were £6.1 million in the previous 12 months, but analysts have cut predictions for this year from £3 million to £1.3 million. The results are due in March 1999. Churchill said sales in the hotelware division were down in the third quarter and the trend was expected to continue.

Eidos buys US studio

EIDOS, the UK computer games company, has completed the \$47.5 million (£28.6 million) acquisition of America's Crystal Dynamics, it was announced yesterday. Crystal Dynamics, based in Palo Alto, is an independent development studio whose forthcoming releases include titles like GEX III Deep Cover Gecko, Legacy of Kain: Soul Reaver and Akuji the Heartless. The acquisition has been financed from existing Eidos cash resources, with 50 per cent of the consideration paid on completion and the balance deferred until April 1999.

Knoydart eviction threat

RECEIVERS appointed at Knoydart Peninsula, the Scottish estate formerly owned by Stephen Hinchliffe and Christopher Harrison, are threatening to evict the estate manager who was in a legal battle with the former P&O bosses after they sacked him earlier this year (Jason Nisè writes). Ian Robertson was dismissed as manager of the

West of Scotland estate by Mr Harrison shortly after he visited Knoydart at Easter.

Mr Robertson sued Knoydart Peninsula, the company which owns the estate, for £26,000 that he said he was owed and for wrongful dismissal. The Fort William Sheriff's Court awarded him £12,000 last month and there is a hearing on the remainder

to take place on November 27. The wrongful dismissal case is set to be heard in Glasgow two days before that.

Laurie Manson, of PricewaterhouseCoopers, appointed receivers to Knoydart Peninsula ten days ago, has written to Mr Robertson saying there is no documentation to prove he has a right to occupy the cottage he lives in on the estate.

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Egypt	5.87	5.28
Finland Mk	9.06	8.31
France F	9.85	9.07
Germany Dm	2.952	2.720
Greece Dr	496	459
Hong Kong S	13.70	12.50
Iceland K	128	108
Indonesia	17517	12517
Ireland P	11.786	1.0896
Israel S	7.49	6.83
Italy Lit	2944	2707
Japan Yen	215.81	198.28
Malta	0.654	0.605
Netherlands Gld	3.348	3.053
New Zealand \$	3.23	2.99
Norway Kr	13.00	12.06
Portugal Esc	205.19	277.16
S Africa Rd	9.90	8.94
Spain Pta	248.57	230.78
Sweden Kr	13.98	12.78
Switzerland Fr	2.465	2.247
Turkey Lira	49948	46214
USA \$	1.758	1.626

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£10,000+	1.75	1.40
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THE TIMES

Teleport boasts Comcast

Ki E wi

Springboard

Captain Oates of M&S



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

There may be diligent executives somewhere in Baker Street who continue to give their full attention to the perfect recipe for a new sauce or the ideal set of a jacket sleeve, but there will not be many of them. The boardroom shenanigans have now reached such a level that no one at Marks & Spencer can be unaware of the turmoil now endangering the company.

When a deputy chairman makes a public bid for preference, as Keith Oates did this weekend, the result is destabilisation on an extraordinary scale. The announcement that he was volunteering his services as half of a 'dream ticket' to run the company amounted to a nightmare for an organisation which tries, and usually succeeds, to keep its public utterances running carefully to script. Marks & Spencer was praising the Alastair Campbell approach to news management long before New Labour discovered the importance of keeping everyone on message.

In grabbing the microphone to announce his ambitions, Mr Oates has surely put an end to his career at M&S. Many think he had little to lose, since his name was no longer being taken seriously in the debate as to who would move into the seat which Sir Richard Greenbury. But it is now impossible to imagine how he can go on working in the organisation if the non-executives

turn down his suggestion, which they most surely will.

The succession issue at M&S has been moving up the agenda, belatedly, throughout this year. The non-executives had hoped that they might be allowed to ponder it until next spring, in the hope, no doubt, that their rather jaundiced view of all the potential internal candidates might be proven unfair and a worthy successor blossom forth. What the Oates outburst has done is to multiply the pressure for a speedy decision. The company cannot be allowed to endure months more of such uncertainty: the board must decide who will run the company at a time when it clearly does need strong management.

Sir Richard may not be reading the newspapers at the moment — his ostrich-like reaction to what he deems unfair coverage — but somehow the message reached him in India that all was not well back home. We can only guess what he had to say to his deputy chairman, but the chances are that it did not bode well for their continued working relationship. And, as Sir Richard constantly reminds people, he intends to be a part of the team at

M&S for several years yet. He has the bit of paper to prove that his board asked him to stay until his 65th birthday.

LucasVary left in no man's land

The board of LucasVary has publicly declared itself to be 100 per cent behind its chief executive, Victor Rice. Privately, however, some of the directors must be asking themselves whether Mr Rice's position is really tenable. And if there is a question mark over his head, then there must also be one hanging over Ed Wallis, the chairman.

Mr Wallis was vociferous in his espousal of the Rice plan to move LucasVary to the United States. He has even ventured to suggest that the route is one that other companies will be forced to consider, a thought that, inevitably, puts the spotlight on PowerGen, of which he is also chairman.

Messrs Wallis and Rice will take comfort from the fact that their proposals were voted down by the size of majority that would have had most politicians demanding a recount, in the hope that a second attempt would produce the desired answer. However, until Lord Jenkins of Hillhead turns his attention to shareholder voting, defeat is defeat and Messrs Wallis and Rice lost the contest.

And, as far as UK shareholders in LucasVary were concerned, it was indeed a contest. As the proposals were examined and their implications digested, UK investors small and large became increasingly unhappy

about how they would fare, prompting the company to refine the plans. However, some investors even looked beyond their own circumstances to ponder the possible effects on the company and its employees. There were suggestions that the move of domicile might be more to benefit Victor Rice than LucasVary.

That suggestion may be unfounded, although the Rice reputation is not for selflessness and sacrifice — and he does happen to have kept his base in the US, despite LucasVary being headquartered in the UK.

However, the fact that his moves were even called into question does not augur well for the company's share price. Victor Rice argued that one reason for moving LucasVary to the US was that the majority of its investors were now in that country. Now he has succeeded in alienating many of those UK investors who had continued to hold the stock. The company is now left

under a cloud of uncertainty, with its chief executive back home in Buffalo.

He had taken the precaution of ensuring a premature parting from LucasVary would be financially rewarding. Shareholders may be reluctant to see his recent efforts so richly rewarded.

Kingfisher's deal in anyone's language

French sensitivities may have been hurt by the handling of Kingfisher's deal with Castorama. The impression seems to have been given that this might be more of a British takeover than a European merger. So yesterday's formal announcement of the creation of Europe's largest DIY business came carefully couched, with liberal sprayings of the phrases 'joint venture' and 'merger'. It even went so far as to say that the terms 'represent a spirit of true partnership'.

But it is hard to avoid the conclusion that, as usual, some partners are more equal than others. In this case, Kingfisher will have 54.6 per cent of the new group and, after two and a half years,

could take full control at a price to be agreed on the advice of an independent investment bank.

The choice of who that might be could be narrowed by Kingfisher's renowned penchant for bulk-buying advice just as B&Q customers buy cement. Whereas Castorama cites just CCF-Charterhouse, Kingfisher lists not one but four investment bank advisers on the deal. Goldman Sachs comes top of the list but lets have a big hand, too, for Lazard Frères, Société Générale and SBC Warburg Dillon Read.

Clearly, Kingfisher did not wish to trample on the sensitivities of investment bankers any more than it intended to upset its new French friends. And the banking team could soon be busy again, Kingfisher's next stop looks set to be Germany.

No joint account

DOES Halifax really want to merge with Barclays? While the story was good for generating some market activity, it seems unlikely that investors would leap at such a deal. After all, who would they see in the driving seat? James Crosby, boss-elect at Halifax, may be a man of huge ambition but his chief executive abilities have yet to be demonstrated. Martin Taylor is not, demonstrably, crying out for a bigger job than the one that has been keeping him occupied at Barclays.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 1998

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bill for Astra to top £1m

It is set to pay more than £1 million in legal proceedings against the former directors of Astra Holdings, the UK owner of Astra, it was disclosed yesterday. The High Court judge, Lord Justice Phillips, said in a 100-page judgment that so far the public has been misled by the Astra directors who have been accused of mismanagement and financial irregularities. The Astra directors are those of Astra Holdings, Astra, Astra UK, Astra Europe, Astra Asia, Astra Africa, Astra Australia, Astra Canada, Astra Europe, Astra Japan, Astra Korea, Astra Latin America, Astra Middle East, Astra New Zealand, Astra Oceania, Astra South America, Astra Taiwan, Astra Thailand, Astra USA, Astra Vietnam.

Merzbank link

NK Germany's third-largest bank, and all the Italian insurance groups, have been in the spotlight since the companies were taken over by the Italian government. The takeover was completed in July 1997. The Italian government has a 50 per cent stake in the bank. The new president of the bank is...

Teleport acquisition

Comcast has bought Kennedy Cable for \$1.09 billion. The deal is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. Comcast will own 66 per cent of the company. Kennedy Cable is a major cable operator in the US. The deal is part of Comcast's strategy to expand its cable services in the US.

Bill falls further

The bill for Astra is expected to reach £1 million. The bill is the result of legal proceedings against the former directors of Astra Holdings. The bill is expected to be paid by Astra Holdings. The bill is a significant amount of money. The bill is a result of the Astra directors' mismanagement and financial irregularities.

buys US studio

Comcast has bought a US studio. The deal is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. Comcast will own 66 per cent of the studio. The studio is a major production company in the US. The deal is part of Comcast's strategy to expand its cable services in the US.

Teleport boosts Comcast

COMCAST, the cable operator, reported a third-quarter profit after it posted a \$1.09 billion pre-tax gain from an investment in Teleport, a telephone company bought by AT&T Corp (Our City Staff writes).

The \$706.6 million (about £427 million) profit made by Comcast compared with a \$62.2 million loss a year ago.

The company said that consolidated operating cashflow rose 15.3 per cent to \$420.7 million and revenues grew 12.5 percent to \$1.36 billion. Current-year results included cable systems in Florida, Delaware and Maryland, acquired last March and April.

Comcast was one of three companies that shared a 66 per cent stake in Teleport, which offered local business phone service.

Kingfisher creates European leader with B&Q merger

EUROPE'S largest do-it-yourself retailer was created yesterday as Kingfisher finalised its £3.6 billion deal to merge its B&Q division with Castorama, its French counterpart (see Commentary, this page).

The enlarged company, with 440 stores across nine European countries, will generate turnover twice that of its nearest competitor to become the third-largest DIY company in the world. It can make savings of about £50 million a year — even without job cuts — by placing larger wholesale orders with its suppliers. Kingfisher, led by Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, has given Castorama full control of B&Q on

condition that it has a 54.6 per cent stake in the enlarged company. Castorama will continue to be listed on the French stock market. Sir Geoffrey will become part-time chairman of a new 12-member partners board, whose members will be split between Kingfisher and Castorama.

Jean-Hugues Loyez, the Castorama chief executive who has long-held ambitions of overseas expansion, will do the same job in the enlarged company. Kingfisher has the option to make a full takeover offer for Castorama in two years' time. The details had been expected by the City, which has been briefed since the terms of the

Imperial makes US debut

IMPERIAL TOBACCO, which yesterday listed on the New York Stock Exchange, has no intention of trying to list in the footsteps of LucasVary by proposing a move of domicile from London to the US, according to Gareth Davies, the group chief executive.

"We've no intention of doing a LucasVary. The listing of our ADRs (American Depositary Receipts) reflects our growing shareholder base and our commitment to US investors," said Mr Davies. Imperial Tobacco, spun-off from the old Hanson Industries, has a shareholder base of around 30 per cent in America.

In New York the ADRs were being traded at around \$21, while in London the ordinary shares closed 10p lower at 63p. Market report, page 30

Hammerson sells Canadian property portfolio

HAMMERSON, the property group, has sold its Canadian portfolio to a state pension fund for £238 million, the company announced yesterday.

The sale to OMERS Realty Corporation, a subsidiary of Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System, marks the end of Hammerson's 30-year involvement in Canada's property market and a continuation of its strategy to shed overseas assets and concentrate on the UK and continental market.

"We still plan to be an international business, but in a sense based on Europe and not further afield," said Ron Spinney, chief executive. An agreement was reached after a competitive bidding process, in which the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan Board and Centra, a Toronto proper-

Rival bid for Bilton unlikely

HOPES of a white-knight rescue for Bilton, the property company facing a £270 million hostile bid from Slough Estates, were fading yesterday as it emerged that two more City institutions have sold their stakes in the market (Fraser Nelson writes).

Gartmore Investment has sold £4.33 million of Bilton shares at 290p. Fleming Investment Management also said it has sold a £191,000 stake at 290p. Both batches are understood to have been picked up by Slough.

Analysts said that no institution would have sold at these levels if they thought anyone would trump Slough's 307p-a-share cash offer. Slough has built up a 12 per cent stake in Bilton almost entirely from institutional shareholders.

SS

Bank



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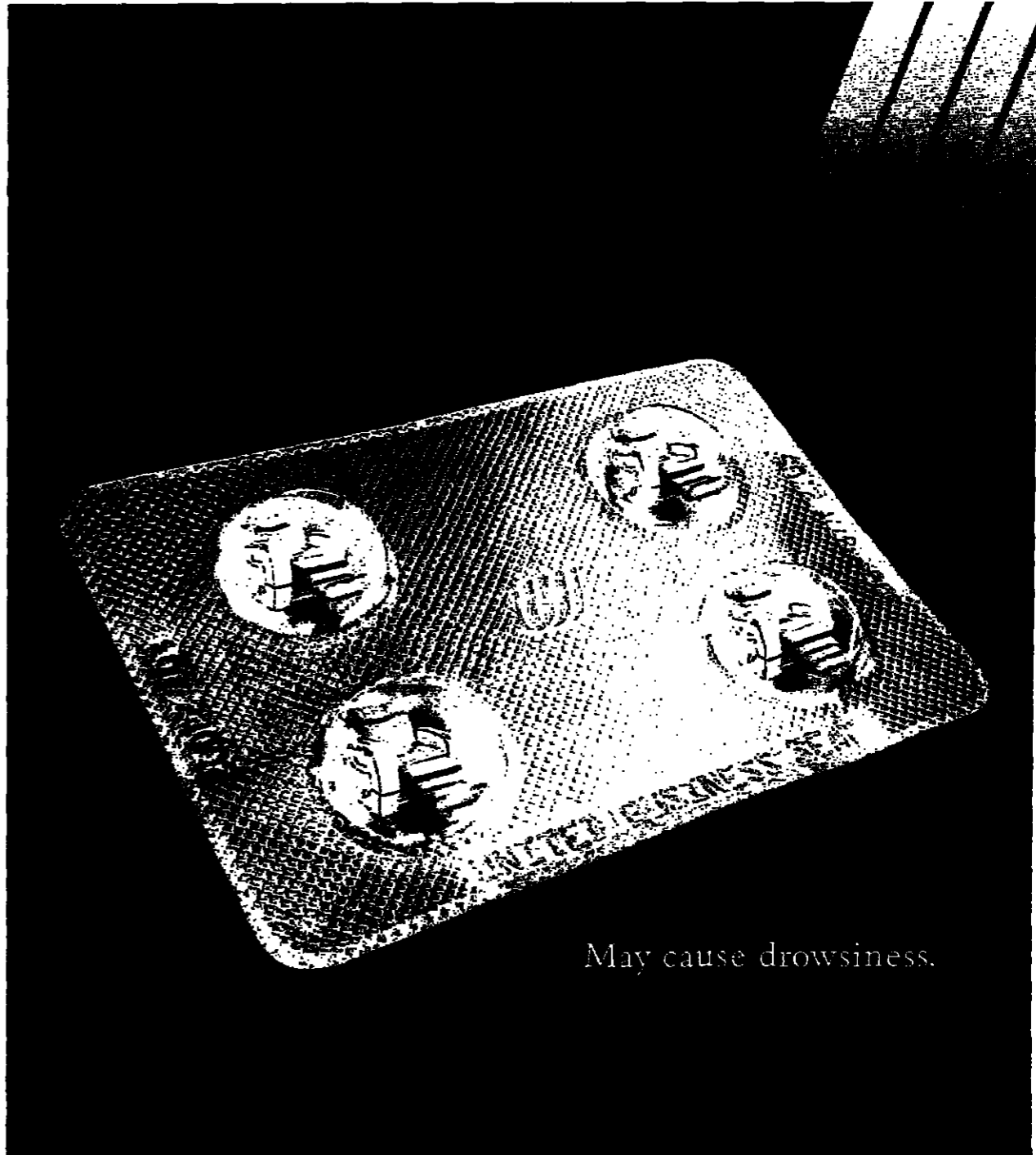
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Speculators thrill to the prospect of Rascal deal

SPECULATIVE buying drove Rascal Electronics another 3p higher to 31p amid growing hopes that a deal may be just around the corner.

City speculators claim the outgoing chairman, Sir Ernest Harrison, is about to pull one last rabbit out of the hat before stepping down. Word is that he may have lined up a full bid, or may be arranging a buyout or demerger of the defence electronics business. Either way, the price has come up from 26.5p in the past few weeks with a further 2 million shares changing hands yesterday.

Sir Ernest, who originally founded Rascal, was responsible for demerging Vodafone in the 1980s in an effort to enhance shareholder value. In 1992, he demerged Chubb Securities.

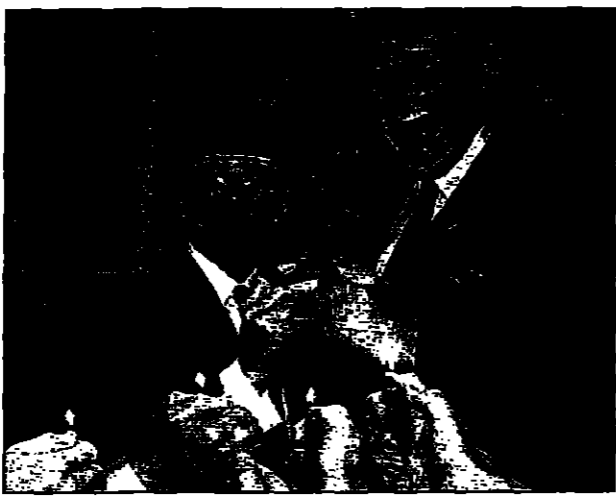
Share prices generally spent a lacklustre session, drifting throughout much of the day in thin trading after giving up an early lead. Futures-related selling dragged the market lower, although a late programme trade was enough to enable prices to close above their low point of the day.

The FTSE 100 index, down almost 92 points at one stage, eventually closed down 57.1 at 5,433.9. Total turnover was a meagre 706 million shares.

There was little response to weekend reports that Halifax, up 7p at 82.5p, was planning a £40 billion merger with Barclays, down 30p at £12.05. The rest of the banks suffered falls after long-term bull Morgan Stanley Dean Winer, the US securities house, began to take a cautious view of prospects. Royal Bank of Scotland lost 6p to 82.7p, Standard Chartered 28.4p to 61.0p, HSBC 54p to £14.28, and Lloyds TSB 28p to 78.0p.

Shares of Imperial Tobacco began trading in New York yesterday, as the Lambert & Butler-to-Rizla company, whose chief executive is Gareth Davis, conceded that it will not be able to lose the US investors who have owned a third of its stock since it demerged from Hanson, the Anglo-American conglomerate, in October 1996.

It expected that the US investors would sell, but their command of Imperial's shares has increased from 27 per cent to 32 per cent — mainly because Imperial has no exposure to the US market and nothing to fear from US tobacco litigation.



Richard Grasso, executive chairman of the NYSE, left, and Gareth Davis celebrate Imperial's launch in New York.

Wall Street gave the shares a lukewarm welcome and they held at \$28 1/4 as Imperial's London shares dropped 10p to 63.5p.

Somerfield's meeting with various brokers appears to be paying dividends. The price raced up 23.4p to 44.8p after Morgan Stanley Dean Winer reiterated its "strong buy" recommendation.

Associated British Foods stood out with a rise of 27p to 597p. Take no notice, say traders. They reckon the shares were depressed by a "rogue price" entered into the system late on Friday.

Stylo edged another 2p higher to 43p on further stakebuilding. Sharm Ahmed, the man behind the Joe Bloggs label, is believed to have bought a further 250,000, taking his total holding to 1 million shares, or half a per cent of the issued share capital. Speculators are talking about a break-up bid for the shoe retailer. Speculative buying was also responsible for a rise in Blacks Leisure of 17.4p to 25.4p.

A revival of speculative buying hoisted takeover favourite Allied Carpets 8p to 54.4p. The carpet retailer put the "for sale" sign up in September, after announcing it had received a number of approaches. The board was due to meet yesterday to discuss the merits of the various approaches.

There was heavy turnover in Overseas Meat with almost 2 million shares changing hands as the price firmed up to 19.4p. Once again there is talk of a bid from Hanover International, steady at 8.4p.

Its third profits warning in six months left Churchill China nursing a fall of 30p to a new low of 87.7p. Takeover target Bilton rose 5p to 29.1p amid signs that institutional support is beginning to swing in favour of Slough Estates' £276 million offer. Garmore Investment has sold a chunk of 1.5 million shares to Slough at 29.0p, reducing its total holding to 1.44 per cent, while Robert Fleming has unloaded a further 66,000 and now speaks for 1.95 per cent. Slough rose 3p to 29.0p.

Cambridge Antibody sported a rise of 7.1p to 23.0p. Test results back from its rheumatoid arthritis drug DZ E7 are said to look promising. Take profits advice from ABN Amro Hoare Govett ahead of results left Electrocomponents 18p down at 40.2p. The shares have come up from a low of 31p in recent weeks.

GLT-EDGED: Bond prices recovered from a weak start helped by the strength of overseas markets.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt put on 46p at £14.29 in thin trading that saw just 25,000 contracts change hands. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 6p to £141.31, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 6p better at £105.86.

NEW YORK: US blue chips were sharply lower as a sell programme knocked Wall Street. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 97.83 points to 8,377.63.

THE general insurers were among some of the worst performers, with brokers becoming increasingly gloomy about prospects. Among the top 100 companies, Guardian Royal Exchange fell 17p to 275p, Allied Zurich 29.4p to 69.4p, while Royal & Sun Alliance fell a further 8p to 49.3p in response to last week's profits setback.

Dealers also expect a profit's downturn at CGU, down 22p at 89p, which unveils third-quarter results tomorrow.

Merrill Lynch, the broker, is forecasting a fall to £407 million.

Credit Lyonnais Securities remains bearish. One broker said: "We are cautious about prospects, but you do get the feeling that the premium rate cycle has reached the bottom, particularly in motors. Conditions may start to improve soon."

That said, it seems inevitable that there will be an increase in insurance claims reflecting the current downturn in the economy.

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Table with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes RISES: Shell, BP, BHP, etc. and FALLS: Anglo Irish, etc.

On a wing and a prayer

THE knives were out for Bob Ayling yesterday. The chief executive of British Airways was under pressure to deliver on two fronts. His failure to do so led analysts across the board to downgrade their profits forecasts. Investors, who have seen the share price dive from a summer high of 703p to about 400p, wanted reassurance that BA would not be trampled by the rival Star alliance now its partnership with American Airlines is on the back burner. However, Ayling insists BA's loser OneWorld grouping — with AA and three other airlines — is good enough in the short term, though irritatingly, Ayling ducked away from any specifics on how.

Robert Wiseman

SCOTLAND is full of small companies which have made their name in the City by succeeding in England. Stagscoach, AG, Barr and Kwik Fit have all done well selling to businessmen but Robert Wiseman Dairies is looking worryingly ambitious. Robert Wiseman can be forgiven for having itchy feet. It sells three in every four pintans in Scotland, and its new Manchester dairy has been a roaring success. So why not take on London, the biggest prize of them all? The answer is that food supply around the South East of England is a law unto itself. Manchester was easy because there were so few milk companies in London, the competition is fierce and has deep pockets. A wave of consolidation is

Dragons

UNTIL last month, investors who supported Dragons Health Clubs' cash-raising exercise in March could be forgiven for having a less-than-healthy view of the company. Having forked out for new shares at £2 apiece, they were forced to watch the price collapse to just 14.5p as the bottom dropped out of the leisure sector. Since then, there has been a rally ahead of yesterday's full-year figures, which were in line with market expectations. These produced a further 5p gain to 17.3p as the market reacted positively to the group's perceived defensive qualities. Like most of the quoted operators, Dragons believes the fitness club market has a long way to go before reaching market saturation. And it believes its niche — the affluent over 35 family market — will be relatively recession-proof, pointing out that 86

Wall Street

per cent of its turnover comes from subscriptions paid by monthly direct debit (notoriously difficult to cancel even if you want to). Ignoring any acquisitions, house broker Rathbone Neilson Cobbold is forecasting a 41 per cent jump in earnings per share to £1.43p as refurbishments are completed and margins improve. That values the shares at 12 times 1999 earnings, whereas rivals Fitness First, Holmes Place and Vardon are averaging 20 times. Its growth record suggests that is unjustified. DCC DCC has four unrelated businesses: the manufacture and distribution of computer software and hardware; an energy arm that sells gas to outlying rural districts that aren't served by the main stream network; a gas distribution unit that specialises in niche growth products in Ireland, such as healthfoods, wine and ground coffee; and a

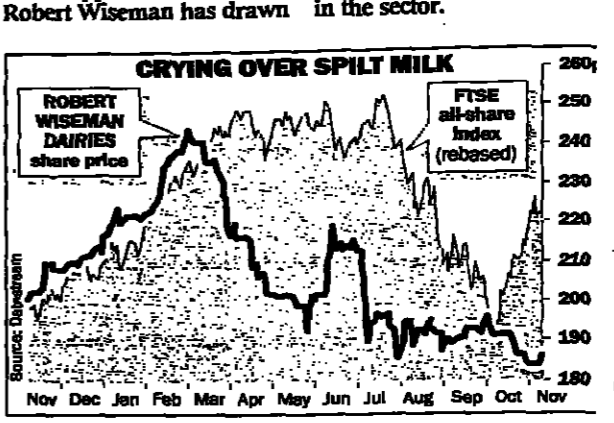


Table with columns: Commodity, Price, Change. Includes COCOA, ROASTED COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR (FOB), MEAT & LIVESTOCK.

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Table with columns: Commodity, Price, Change. Includes Long GIN, Three Milk Starling, Three Milk Espresso, etc.

Table with columns: Country, Rate, Change. Includes Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, etc.

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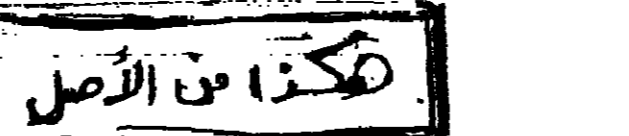
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ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why the world financial crisis was so shortlived

Pragmatic central bankers and calmer investors should stop the global economy going off the rails

Exactly four weeks ago, when this column suggested that "the greatest financial crisis since the 1930s" might be over already, this comment was intended as a wry joke. It was certainly possible to discern the first glimmers of hope in financial markets amid all the fashionable gloom of early October.

But even for someone who was instinctively sceptical about the self-seekingly apocalyptic prophecies of inefficient industrialists, imprudent bankers and reckless fund managers, it scarcely seemed conceivable that this crisis of the global capitalist system, which no less an authority than Alan Greenspan was publicly comparing to a terminal cancer, would give way to another outburst of euphoria before the end of the month.

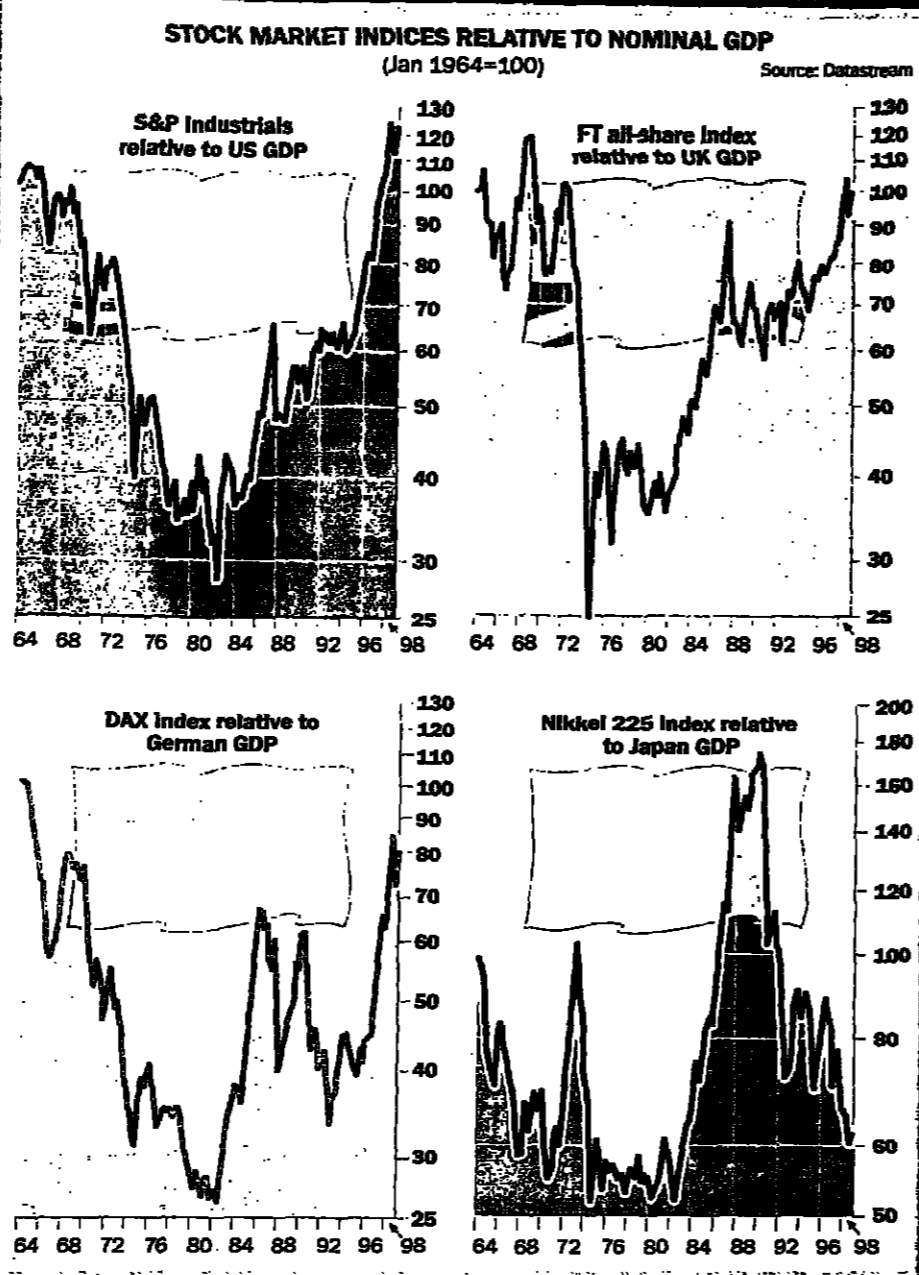
Yet that is exactly what has happened. Instead of the widely predicted meltdown, financial markets have suffered what Wall Street wags now describe as a "melt-up". The 14 per cent gain in US equity prices in October made it the best single month for Wall Street since January 1987. By contrast bond markets, which rejoice in recessions and swoon in horror at the prospect of rapid economic growth, have just experienced their worst month since 1994.

Could the world economy really have changed so profoundly in a single month to justify this abrupt turnaround? The answer, perhaps surprisingly, is "yes". Specifically, there were two crucial changes that became dimly discernible in early October. These have now gone far enough to justify a confident assertion that the crisis is past. The first and most important change has been in the behaviour of politicians and central bankers. The second change has been in the behaviour of the financial markets themselves.

Between them, these two changes have genuinely transformed the prospects for the world economy. Economic policymakers in America, Britain and increasingly even in Japan and continental Europe, have explicitly recognised both their ability and their responsibility to avert a global recession. Meanwhile, the return of bullish sentiment to financial markets could soon start to show through in surveys of consumer and business confidence. These improvements in confidence will in turn help to sustain world economic activity and demand.

Let us consider the political factor first. After the creation of a Red-Green coalition in Germany and President Clinton's decisive victory in America we now see strong, activist governments bankers, committed to essentially Keynesian policies

GLOBAL STOCK MARKETS BACK TO "IRRATIONAL EXUBERANCE"?



of demand management all over the world. Policy activism may not be in tune with the monetarist conventional wisdom of the 1970s and 1980s, especially among bankers, businessmen and financiers, but at a time when the world economy is obviously more threatened by recession than inflation, the newly popular philosophy of active demand management is being greeted with universal relief. By a process of democratic political osmosis, Keynesian-style attitudes to economics are permeating deep into the central banks.

The US Federal Reserve Board has, of course, been committed for years to a pragmatic neo-Keynesian policy of managing demand so as to maintain the lowest possible level of unemployment and unused industrial capacity consistent with low inflation. Nowhere has this philosophy been adopted more enthusiastically than the Bank of England, as evidenced by last week's aggressive reduction in interest rates. It has been fashionable in the City to suggest that the Bank's unexpected decision to cut interest rates by 50 instead of 25 basis points was a sign of panic and an indication that the economy is now much weaker than the bank expected it to be a few months ago. We will learn tomorrow about the

Bank's detailed inflation and economic forecasts, but my guess is that they will show only a modest downward revision in economic growth.

The real key to the Monetary Policy Committee's unexpectedly radical decision was to be found in a lecture by Charles Goodhart, "Central Bankers and Uncertainty", delivered on October 29. I only wish I had read it more carefully and brought it to readers' attention before last week's decision by the Bank.

Central banks, according to Professor Goodhart, would generally be more successful in stabilising both inflation and output if they were willing to move interest rates by larger margins than in the past and if they felt no embarrassment about reversing their decisions. Since economic information is constantly changing, a monetary policy that is aiming for a fixed inflation target should be free to respond to these inherently unpredictable fluctuations in an unpredictable way.

This hair-trigger activism is only a theoretical model subject to all kinds of caveats about the possible dangers of destabilising financial expectations, as Professor Goodhart and his academic colleagues admit. That is why at least one

or two further reductions in interest rates remain likely in Britain and America, even if financial and economic conditions continue to improve.

More importantly, policy activism runs against the traditions of central bankers and politicians, who find it unaccountably difficult ever to admit that their last move may have been "insufficient" or even "wrong". The institution where personal embarrassment and pride are likely to prove the biggest obstacles to changes in monetary policy is, of course, the European Central Bank. But even at the ECB, the signs are growing that Keynesian attitudes will soon be imposed by the new German Government's appointees. These signs have helped to relieve the dangerous hardening of the mark in the past few weeks — and the weaker currency should, in turn, help to stabilise financial markets and business sentiment in Germany and the rest of Europe, just as it was threatening to become the weakest region of the world economy in the year ahead.

More generally, the changes in market conditions should be reassuring, even to people who have nothing invested in stocks and shares. To many people this may seem surprising. The manic depressive behaviour of financial markets is

widely regarded as irrelevant, at best, to the real world of business and employment. While investors swing from euphoria to despair and back again, people continue to lose their jobs and even to starve in Asia, Latin America and Russia. Industrialists find their order-books shrivelling at a rate not seen since the early 1990s and shopkeepers discover that frightened consumers suddenly prefer to save their money, rather than spend it.

In trying to understand events in the real economy of jobs and production it is often correct to ignore the gyrations of financial markets. There are, however, times when financial prices must be closely watched if we want to guess what economic events may be in store. This is not because the stock markets are particularly good at forecasting the future but because they directly influence the decisions consumers, businessmen, employers and politicians are going to make.

Clearly the recent worldwide crisis and the present apparent recovery is such a period; the performance of the real economy is being strongly influenced by financial events.

Had Wall Street not fallen by 20 per cent in those few scary days of late August, it is unlikely that Western commentators and politicians would have spent the rest of the autumn worrying about a 1930s-style depression and making millenarian pronouncements about the end of the capitalist world. For the real threat to global economic prosperity that emerged in the summer was not related to the sudden loss of trade with Asia and Russia, painful though that was to the many manufacturers, exporters and multinationals exposed to these parts of the world. The real danger came from a possible collapse of spending within America and Europe if consumers reacted to the decline in the value of their savings by tightening their belts.

With the American personal savings rate now running at zero or even negative numbers — in other words, with American consumers now spending more than they earn — the scope for a big retrenchment in spending is obviously alarming. As long as equity prices keep rising, this presents no problem to most Americans — the stock market is doing their saving for them. But what will happen when the stock market falters again — not because of Russia or Asia, but simply because share prices are again much too high? How can Americans be encouraged to increase their savings gradually without killing global demand for consumer goods?

These are the great unanswered questions still threatening the world economy and the great bull market. They should be encouraged to increase their savings gradually without killing global demand for consumer goods? These are the great unanswered questions still threatening the world economy and the great bull market. They should be encouraged to increase their savings gradually without killing global demand for consumer goods?

Have you received our press release on PR qualifications?

There is a body of opinion — which, of course, I do not subscribe to — that the only qualifications you need for a successful career in public relations are to be able to pour a drink and to work a fax machine (a standard that quite a few in the industry might struggle to reach). However, the Institute of Public Relations, the industry's trade association, is trying to promote the idea that spin doctoring is actually a profession, requiring a high level of education, professional qualifications and even industry standards.

The IPR has, with the help of City University, conducted a survey of its membership, and out of the 1,071 members who responded, it found that an increasing number are actually educated to degree level or higher. In 1987, when the IPR first looked at the education of its membership, it found that just 35.5 per cent of its members had degrees. This rose to 43.5 per cent in 1991, 52.5 per cent in 1994 and now stands at 56.3 per cent. More than one in five PR people has post-graduate qualifications and the IPR found that its women members were better educated than its men, with nearly 62 per cent of PR girls having degrees compared with 51 per cent of the blokes, and more than 23 per cent of women in PR having post-graduate qualifications.

Of these super-qualified spin doctors, 4 per cent admit to having degrees in public relations. There are now 15 IPR-accredited degrees at 11 British universities (as well as two degrees that the IPR refuses to put its name to), and the IPR is promoting five post-graduate diplomas that are due to start next year, including the London School of Economics and Leeds Metropolitan University. Bemused by how long it would take to teach someone the correct way to say: "I'll have to get back to you on that one," I asked Peter Walker, the president of the IPR, what is taught on these courses.

He explained that among the topics covered are communications theory and practices, management studies, economics and an explanation of what PR actually is. "Of course, these courses cannot teach you the specific skills, like how to operate the coffee machine, but they provide a sharp focus for people who want to make a career in public relations," says Mr Walker.

Another thing the IPR is doing is to promote professional standards. It has been talking with the Cabinet Office and the Financial Services Authority about a code of practice for the industry. This is to stop problems like the infamous "Friday-night drop" where price-sensitive stories about public companies are passed to the Sunday papers ahead of being officially announced.

Mr Walker points out that the IPR already has a disciplinary procedure in place, with an annually elected disciplinary committee. However, it has only ever expelled three members — one who was censured by a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry, another who was censured by the Stock Exchange and a third who set up a bogus organisation purporting to represent a foreign government. Telling lies, apparently, is not



anything more to the sponsors. The price Guinness paid to sponsor the forthcoming rugby World Cup was nearly three times the price paid by Heineken last time and the Football Association is asking four times the £1 million a year paid by Green Flag to sponsor the England football team. The FA has had no takers and may well have to drop the price substantially if it is to secure a sponsor.

MARKET LEADER

The annual Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race is searching for a new sponsor — Beefeater gin having given up after being asked to more than double the price it has been paying in its current three-year deal. The Allied Domecq brand felt the race was good value at £400,000 a year but the race organisers were looking for £1 million each race to carry on. This upping of the price follows a pattern across sports sponsorship at the moment. Big events feel they can ask for greatly increased sponsorship fees without actually offering



The Boat Race wants more money from its next sponsor

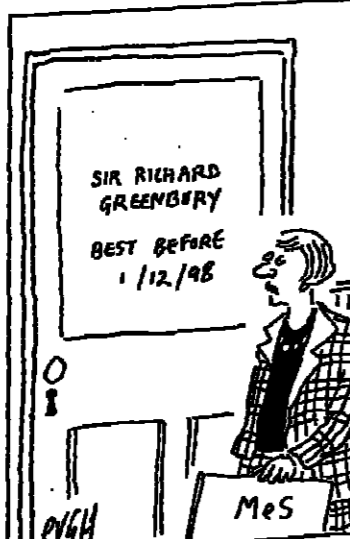
Vacant lot

A SIGN that City job losses have spilled over into the housing market: George Wimpey has quietly stopped work on an expensive development in Docklands. The second phase of Royal Victoria Dock, one of the biggest projects in the area, was to have finished next year, but the site has now been closed.

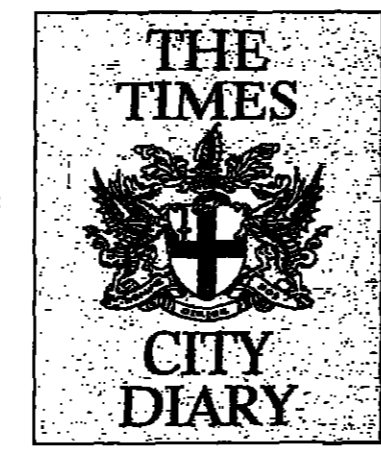
When I rang, Wimpey was keen to play down any link between the City's troubles and its decision. This led to a bizarre debate over whether the two-bed flats, average cost

£175,000 to £200,000, were or were not "luxury". Eventually we settled on "upper middle market", but at that price they were clearly aimed at City buyers.

"We held off because confidence is low, and we expect confidence to be higher later," said a spokeswoman. There were to have been 900 homes on the whole site in all. Now the remaining 300 on the first phase will gradually be sold.



Fleeting chance
IF YOU have recently bought *The British Battle Fleet Vol II (1915)* from Purkley's Oxfam shop and have tired



of your purchase, I can arrange a healthy secondary market. Just down the road is International Defense Review, founded by Fred Jane to produce Jane's Fighting Ships et al, and this year is its centenary.

Gallic gall

IN THE diary business, plagiarism is the sincerest form of flattery. *L'Agefi*, the French business paper, has recycled, uncredited, my tale about a competition to find a name for the British-German alliance of stock exchanges. This received few British entries because the prize was a weekend in Frankfurt, while German entrants got a weekend in London.

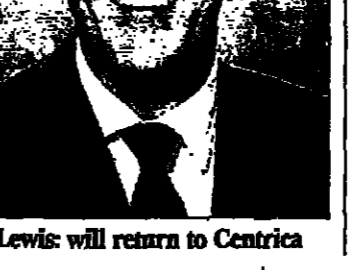
The French suggest that the prize should be a weekend in Paris for all. A city noted for grasping hoteliers and restaurateurs and surly inhabitants. But then I'm biased.

Spun off

NOW his replacement has been appointed, what of Simon Lewis's future at Centrica? He was seconded to Buckingham Palace for a two-year term and it was always accepted that he would one day return.

Now, I hear, the problem has been solved. Lewis will run part of the company. As I somehow cannot see him down a hole and rooting about among the pipes, we can assume it will be marketing or some such.

But when? Public perception, as we speak, is of Buck House and Prince Charles's office at daggers drawn, with added speculation about the Queen's abdication.



Lewis will return to Centrica

LAW 39
Court of Appeal
Appeal

over following the inspector's determination of the appeal

To avoid any unwanted appearances, see us first.

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Equities lower in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
1.20	1.18	Beck's	1.19	-0.8	15.2
1.15	1.13	Carling	1.14	-1.7	14.8
1.10	1.08	Labatt	1.09	-1.8	14.5
1.05	1.03	Miller	1.04	-2.0	14.2
1.00	0.98	Pabst	0.99	-2.1	13.9

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
12.50	12.40	Bank of Montreal	12.45	-0.8	12.5
12.00	11.90	Bank of Toronto	11.95	-0.8	12.2
11.50	11.40	Bank of Nova Scotia	11.45	-0.9	11.9
11.00	10.90	Bank of the West	10.95	-0.9	11.6
10.50	10.40	Bank of Victoria	10.45	-1.0	11.3

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
25.00	24.80	Beck's	24.90	-0.8	15.2
24.50	24.30	Carling	24.40	-1.7	14.8
24.00	23.80	Labatt	23.90	-1.8	14.5
23.50	23.30	Miller	23.40	-2.0	14.2
23.00	22.80	Pabst	22.90	-2.1	13.9

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

CONSTRUCTION

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
12.00	11.80	Home Depot	11.90	-0.8	18.5
11.50	11.30	Home Depot	11.40	-0.8	18.2
11.00	10.80	Home Depot	10.90	-0.9	17.9
10.50	10.30	Home Depot	10.40	-0.9	17.6
10.00	9.80	Home Depot	9.90	-1.0	17.3

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

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High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

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High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

MEDIA

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

RETAILERS FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

RETAILERS GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.80	Dow Chemical	9.90	-0.8	12.5
9.50	9.30	Dow Chemical	9.40	-0.8	12.2
9.00	8.80	Dow Chemical	8.90	-0.9	11.9
8.50	8.30	Dow Chemical	8.40	-0.9	11.6
8.00	7.80	Dow Chemical	7.90	-1.0	11.3

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High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
15.00	14.80	Home Depot	14.90	-0.7	18.5
14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

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14.50	14.30	Home Depot	14.40	-0.7	18.2
14.00	13.80	Home Depot	13.90	-0.7	17.9
13.50	13.30	Home Depot	13.40	-0.7	17.6
13.00	12.80	Home Depot	12.90	-0.7	17.3

PROPERTY



GALLERIES Van Gogh and the rest of the big Paris shows PAGE 37

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE Terrence McNally staged in London PAGE 38



With a little help from the stars, Kilburn's theatre is now also a cinema and an art studio. Andy Lavender reports

The Tricycle moves up a gear

Kilburn High Road is the bustling thoroughfare that goes north through London from genteel Maida Vale through the Irish pubs of Kilburn and Cricklewood and then on to the myriad superstore delights of Staples Corner. Halfway along, as you stew in the traffic, you come across an outpost of art: the Tricycle Theatre and Art Gallery, which since opening in 1980 has based its reputation on a canny mix of Irish drama, black theatre and political drama (notably Half the Picture, staging the Scott inquiry).

'We feel that the regeneration of any neighbourhood can be led by the arts'

limestone structure. The gala evening features nothing less than the British premiere of The Negotiator, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey. This glamorous inauguration is a triumph for the venue, for Nicolas Kent, its artistic director of 14 years, and we might say, for the good people of Kilburn themselves.

Kent had the idea for the new development only three years ago, walking along the street. There used to be five cinemas on the High Road — one of which, the State, was once Europe's largest. And then, in an era of falling audiences and spreading bingo halls, there were none.

The Tricycle stands next to a funeral parlour which recently changed hands. Kent inquired about the yard which was used to park the hearses. Why not build a cinema there and, at a leap, increase the Tricycle's value to its community? A speculative idea soon became a viable business proposition. Kent turned to Emma Thompson, a local resident who has helped the Tricycle's fundraising activities in the past. She banged the drum in Hollywood, and with spectacular results: Schwarzenegger,



Finishing touches going on Kilburn's new Tricycle Cinema: Schwarzenegger, Gibson, Hanks and Hoffman are among the stars who have chipped in

Hanks, Gibson and Hoffman have all given money, and Kent persuaded a number of British film and theatre personalities to pitch in as well. Their largesse has allowed the Tricycle to make its part of the £3 million budget for the project, though most of the funding (some £2.38 million) comes from the lottery. The architect is Tim Foster, who designed the rebuilt Tricycle after it was destroyed by a fire in 1987. "He's got a tremendous visual imagination," Kent enthuses, as he points to the elegant butterfly roof, the stainless steel finishes and the

sandstone floor. The interior design, he says, not without reason, is "cool but long-lasting and sensational; everything's kept very simple, very stylish, substantial." You might say the same of the new cinema's programming, which bears the marks of Kent's speciality: connecting the arts with local people. "This is the most multicultural community in Europe," he says. "Ninety languages are spoken in this borough. We've decided to concentrate on one main film each week, but it will be a good independent movie. We won't be showing

Terminator 1 to 3." In addition, Saturday lunchtimes will be devoted to family films, to tie in with children's shows in the theatre in the morning and afternoon. Asian movies will be shown in a "Bollywood" slot on Sunday lunchtimes. Later on Sunday the cinema will show subtitled films. And Thursday afternoons will be for black-and-white classics. "We're going to do an Irish film festival, inevitably," says Kent. "Michael Hannigan of the Cork Film Festival is going to programme it for us. We will also have some black film seasons, and I'm hoping to

hold an African-Caribbean festival fairly soon." The cinema shares a bar with the theatre, but Kent intends the different parts of the building to "cross-fertilise" in other ways too. In the new year he will direct The Colour of Justice, a reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, edited by Richard Norton-Taylor (who adapted the Scott Inquiry). "I hope that people who see, for instance, The Negotiator, might well then say: 'Ah, you're doing the Lawrence inquiry. We've never been to the theatre, but we'll certainly come to that!'"

At which point other Kentish good ideas come into play. The Tricycle pioneered "pay what you can" evenings. These are now sponsored by Loot (the free ad newspaper based along the road in Kilburn) to the tune of £9,000 a year, and the paper has committed another £10,000 to back a similar scheme in the new cinema. Meanwhile Kent has introduced the Tricycle Club Card for young people (aged 14 to 26) resident in the borough (Brent). The card lets its holder see a film or play on any weekday evening for £2 and £1.50 respectively, courtesy of a grant

from the Arts Council's Arts for Everyone scheme. "What's interesting is that they book and then turn up," says Kent. "There's no difference between having a Gold Card and having this sort of card. Well, there is one difference: you don't pay in advance with this."

Like some urban Robin Hood, he gives to the poor with one hand and takes from the rich with the other. Hollywood stars are not the only people to back the Tricycle. Cameron Mackintosh has endowed a rehearsal room in the new development. The Cohen Charitable Trust has given £30,000 towards the Paint Box, a visual arts studio which will be used by an artist in residence working with 12 selected schoolchildren — to see, says

WHETHER through miscalculation or sheer accident, P.J. Crook became associated early in her career with that rather worrying breed of sophisticatedly naive artists, those who pretend to be much simpler than they are for the sake of cuteness. In her latest show, though, there is little that is cute and much that is cutting. What she paints are mostly everyday scenes: of commuters walled behind their newspapers, of crowded lunch counters, of people at race-tracks or in fairgrounds or dancing. The colours are pastel and the details often fanciful, but this time there are hardly any out-and-out fantasies — only one angel and one room with a zebra at the door. Even when such characters occur, they are validated by being locked into a personal reality of the surrealist kind. Theo Waddington, 5a Cork Street, W1 (0171-584 0667), until Dec 12

WILL MACLEAN is another artist who has been accused of wilful naivety. In his case it is no doubt to do with his allegiance to a school of genuinely untrained artists (Alfred Wallis, Ben Nicholson and Christopher Wood) whose work is associated with the sea, and the flotsam and jetsam thrown up on our shores. He does sometimes use (or appears to use) found objects from the seashore, but they are always carved and painted, and reassembled into mostly small, icon-like works, benefiting from his strong and subtle sense of how simple elements like hooks and bones and feathers can be juxtaposed to achieve complex results. Art First, 9 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 0366), until Nov 26.

IN THE 1960s Phillip King was one of the most prominent figures in new British sculpture. More recently he has tended to stand a little back, to the extent of becoming almost reclusive. But that does not mean he has been inactive. His show of new sculpture is full of wayward invention. Most of the pieces are smallish, free-standing, and the first impression is that you can hardly guess what they are made of. One at least is cast aluminium, but visually it is not distinguishable from the mixtures all round of things like wood, metal, ceramic, plastic and neo-paper, a Japanese paper which lends itself to moulding. The titles are whimsical and enigmatic, but the creative energy is potent. Bernard Jacobson, 14a Cliford Street, W1 (0171-495 8575) until Nov 26

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

The Cape Town-born drummer Louis Moholo and the American trumpeter Lester Bowie are both great musical spark plugs. Each is justly revered not only as a crucial energising presence at the heart of — in Moholo's case — the London jazz scene in the late 1960s and 1970s, and — in Bowie's — that of Chicago in the same period, but also as a musician with ears wide open to all manner of contemporary sounds and the versatility to add his own contribution to them.

More at home alone

Lester Bowie/Louis Moholo Queen Elizabeth Hall

of the Art Ensemble of Chicago as to the witty avant-pop of his Brass Fantasy. Their initial performance as a duo, however, immediately set alarm bells ringing. It seems somewhat illogical, even perverse, to criticise what was essentially improvised

music for being under-rehearsed. But, in their slow musical circling of each other — Moholo alternately patterning and rumbling while Bowie interspersed snatches of strident melody with his customary smears, spurts and grunts — there were few signs that they had ever discussed common ground, let alone worked out a means of occupying it. The arrival on stage of the orchestra's vocalist, Francine Luze, with a non-verbal repertoire of shrieks, sighs, growls and bursts of scat, plus a selection of calls and the odd quotation, added numerous welcome extra textures to the overall sound, but did little to clarify the music.

The presence of the entire ensemble in the concert's second half — a row of percussionists playing talking drums, a manner of hand drums, chimes, and rattles, plus saxophonist Jason Yarde, marimba player Orphe Robinson and a keyboard/electric bass rhythm section — again promised at least textural and dynamic variety, but it was not forthcoming. Individual drum sounds and textures were indistinguishable in the disorganised, galumphing free-for-all that ensued, and the sudden hectoring recitation of a litany of oddly ill-associated names — Desmond Tutu, Ella Fitzgerald, Steve Biko and Billie Holiday among them — struck a note of incongruity rather than making the sociopolitical point that it was clearly intended to make. There was the odd flash, in the encore somewhat puzzlingly demanded by a vociferous audience, of Bowie's musical wit at last finding some point of contact with Moholo's fiercely energetic drumming, but it was too little, too late.

Cut off in his prime

It all started so promisingly. For almost an hour Rufus Wainwright entertained us with his lush and lounge show tunes before a jobsworth, marched onstage and told him he had five minutes left. So he sang Foolish Love (it's seven minutes long and I'm going to play it real slow," he declared) and then the microphones were disconnected — before Wainwright had left the stage, paying customers were ordered to leave, and found themselves on the pavement of Leicester Square at 10.30 on a Saturday night.

It was a disastrous advert for London's newest rock venue. On the way out I asked the manager for an explanation: was it a security problem or a licensing requirement? Not at all. The show had another booking at 11pm, she explained, adding that Wainwright's announcement at his treatment was the behaviour of a prima donna. Despite its prime location in Leicester Square, Sound Republic will surely soon find itself out of business if it continues to treat audiences and artists in such a cavalier fashion. In his meagre hour, Wainwright proved why his self-filled debut album has been critically acclaimed. There is simply nobody in contemporary pop quite like him. The son of respected folkies Loudon Wainwright and Kate McGarrigle, he has eschewed following in their musical footsteps and instead embraced the world of 1930s musicals, with George Gershwin and Cole Porter as his reference points. Seated at the piano, he gave us sweeping slices of pop melodrama on Matinee Idol and April Fools. When he switched

POP Rufus Wainwright Sound Republic

to guitar, supported by the harmonies of sister Maria, there was inevitably a folkier feel and even a hint of his father in the nasal voice. It was all delivered with an engaging humour. "One of us had better

get a hit, else mother is going to be upset," he quipped when introducing his sister. And then he was gone. Wainwright's evening was completed when the two nearest pubs burst their doors to him as it was by now the late, late hour of 10.50pm. Who could blame him if he declined to play sleepy London town again?

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Past masters

IN THE early 1980s, Bauhaus were one of Britain's most revered cult bands. Pioneering a raw post-punk sound as spiky and jagged as their cheekbones, this eclectic Northampton quartet enjoyed four prolific years of fringe success before disbanding in 1983. But this summer, after 15 years of silence and obscure solo projects, the band reunited for a clutch of low-key American dates. Their reception was warm, but it scarcely anticipated the hysteria which greeted the first of two packed shows at London's Brixton Academy on Saturday night.

Even now, with a whole raft of their 1980s peers on the comeback trail, Bauhaus still look and sound impressively ageless and original. Their tribal beats and abrasively detuned guitars may have been absorbed into the common grammar of pop, but there was little evidence of Post-Modern nostalgia. The band's singer Peter Murphy might still owe a heavy debt to David Bowie, but he never lapses

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available recordings, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

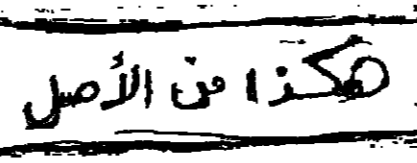
BRITTEN'S YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA Reviewed by Chris de Souza

BRITTEN composed The Young Person's Guide for an educational film in 1946. A character piece, it rapidly established itself as a favourite in its own right, with its wit and resourceful exploitation of sound. Leonard Bernstein (Sony Classical) tries to turn it into another Pomp and Circumstance March. Britten may have been celebrating Purcell's 250th anniversary, but pompous this music isn't. With the LSO (Decca) Britten floats the phrases of Purcell's tune like vaulted arches. Britten's recording is an object lesson in observing the composer's intentions. Vintage playing, literally — reworked in 1964 — the quality of sound is now more or less a thing of the past. Britten was an expert orchestrator and wrote brilliantly for each instrument. He did not demand the impossible, but you do need players who are on the ball. Neeme Järvi (BIS) pushes the Bergen Philharmonic beyond its capability, and does not give due weight to the score. If you want spoken narration, Dorati and the Royal Philharmonic (London) boast Sean Connery as narrator, and a characterful job he makes of it. Bernstein has the passages designed for voice-over, but carelessly hasn't provided a voice. The inimitable Dame Edna Everage (Naos) points up the disadvantage of the text — the orchestra has to live up to it. The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra under John Lanchbery is fine as far as it goes, but I wouldn't describe their cellos as "gorgeous". Dame Edna is, though, and the recording is worth having for her alone. Sir Charles Groves's 1977 recording with the RLPO (EMI) is acceptable, but the lower strings lack weight and the brass and percussion variations lack edge. Dorati's wilful approach isn't softened by the rather shrill balance. As for the New York Phil, things get steadily more hard driven. The English Symphony Orchestra under William Boughton (Nimbus) creates a wonderful atmosphere, helped by a wide acoustic. But Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (EMI) CDC 5 55394-2, (15.99) have the edge over them in clarity of detail, helped by a finely focused balance. In spite of its age, Britten's own recording with the LSO trumpets the foil for sheer calculation, though when the trombones enter majestically with Purcell's tune, Rattle and the CBSO snatch the triumphant wreath.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SUCK81, 1, Upper, 11, 30/11/98 or phone 0453 023 488; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Beethoven's Ghost Piano Trio

BBC Symphony Orchestra In Memoriam Thursday 12 November, 7.30 Royal Festival Hall Britten Ballad of Heroes Vaughan Williams Symphony No.3 'Pastoral' Howells Hymnus Paradisi Richard Hickox conductor Joan Rodgers soprano Anthony Rolfe-Johnson tenor BBC Symphony Chorus

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Visions of country living: in *La Meridienne*, painted in 1866, Millet's snoozing harvesters take their noonday repose in a softly lit landscape. In his more challenging version, *Siesta*, Van Gogh's pair seem less protected from the glare of the sun

Vincent's sincere flattery

Of all the artists who revolutionised Western painting in the late 19th century, Van Gogh might seem the most headlong. But his audacious originality was underpinned by a profound respect for the past. Rembrandt, Delacroix and Van Gogh's own teacher, Anton Mauve, were among the artists he venerated. His favourite, though, remained to the end of his life Jean-François Millet. And a revelatory exhibition devoted to his love of Millet is now, with epic queues clogging the Musée d'Orsay to see it, the outright hit of the season in Paris.

When Van Gogh suddenly decided to abandon his native Holland for Paris in 1866, Millet had been dead for just over a decade. But his paintings of French country life were widely popular, and a retrospective survey of Millet's work reinforced Van Gogh's admiration. Having already painted the impoverished miners and weavers of his own country, he respected Millet's commitment to peasant scenes. Defying the orthodox belief that workers on the land were not a worthy subject for high art, Millet was regarded in conservative quarters as a dangerous radical. But his emphasis on the toughness of peasant labour, especially in the unusual grimness of *The Man with the Hoe*, reflected his fatalism rather than

any incendiary political convictions. Van Gogh, an evangelical pastor's son whose early years were dominated by intense religious beliefs, shared Millet's dedication to the natural world. And after he turned south, finding his boldest voice in the heat and light of Provence, Van Gogh turned to Millet again and again. The Musée d'Orsay exhibition displays the two men's paintings and graphic work side by side, concentrating above all on the Millet images Van Gogh chose to copy. The firmness of his interpretations might have made Millet's originals look tame. If anything, though, the older man survives this high-risk encounter with his reputation enhanced. Van Gogh's versions prompt us to look again at images as over-familiar as Millet's 1850 painting of *A Sower*, and appreciate their raw vigour. Nothing could be more dour than the gaunt, big-boned peasant who strides across the shadowy furrows, battling to ensure that his seeds lodge in the cold earth. Van Gogh paid homage to this archetypal figure in a number of versions,

not all as powerful as Millet's. But in 1888 he finally managed to transform his source by placing his sower against a blaring Provencal sun, more exuberant by far than Millet's gloomy canvas. In 1899 Van Gogh produced an extended series of small canvases, each containing a peasant scene based directly on Millet. Shown in Paris on the same wall as the pictures that inspired them, they make an absorbing comparison. Millet's quiet, meditative dignity becomes charged with rugged vitality in Van Gogh's versions, where labourers attack the corn with astonishing energy. Their thick contours and flaring colours make Millet appear subdued, but he retains an authentic, heartfelt poeury of his own. In the end, though, Van Gogh offers a more challenging vision of the countryside. Millet's image of two harvesters snoozing under a haystack is a tender scene, empha-

sising noonday repose in an untrodden, softly lit landscape. But Van Gogh's version, *Siesta*, is far less consoling. Although the two figures remain asleep, they seem less protected from the blaze of the merciless blue sky. It irradiates the cornfield so fiercely that the haystacks appear on the point of catching fire. *Two early panels, an Allegory and A Maiden's Dream, are suffused with a lyrical awareness of life's mystery and melancholy. The evident influence of Bellini may help to explain why Lotto found scant employment in Venice itself. But as he obtained commissions elsewhere, in cities like Jesi, Recanati and Ancona, a more individual personality becomes apparent. It conveys a restless, often troubled vision. The agonised St Jerome lurches across the canvas in an impulsive diagonal, ready to bear himself with the stone gripped in his hand. The Christ child threatens to topple off the Virgin's lap as he lunges towards St Catherine, eager to place a ring on her finger in a mystic marriage. Lotto counters this unease by orchestrating his religious paintings with brilliant, sensual colours, at their finest as seductive as Titian. The *Virgin and Child with Saints Catherine and**

Thomas, on loan from Vienna, is an exceptionally beguiling image. Executed in the late 1520s, when Lotto was at his most assured, it must be among the loveliest European paintings of the period. Friend of Degas and teacher of Matisse, Gustave Moreau was no enemy of originality in art. But he became, after his initial success in the Paris salons of the 1850s, utterly removed from Impressionism and its successors. By the time he died in 1898, Moreau had retreated into an intensely private world steeped in complex allusions to religion and mythology. It gives his exhibition at the Grand Palais a feverish fascination, filled with macabre fantasies and a *fin-de-siècle* emphasis on sacrificial doom. The bizarre side of his imagination surfaced early, in a large painting of *Oedipus and the Sphinx* which caused a furore at the 1864 Salon. A full-breasted young woman, the winged creature is attached limpet-like to Oedipus's semi-naked body. With one hind leg thrust

into his groin, the sphinx gives the picture a strong sense of erotic provocation. But Moreau's handling is tight, linear and indebted at this stage to Ingres. The preliminary studies displayed here demonstrate formidable powers of draughtsmanship, and only later does Moreau's attitude to paint become bolder. It emerges at first in small canvases, like the marvellously free and romantic image of a rider hurtling across an empty plain. Even more dashing than Delacroix, the picture is dominated by a sky alive with astonishing broken brushstrokes. But by the time he tackled his most notorious subject, *Salome*, Moreau was prepared to display his more experimental impulses on the grand scale. The increasingly obsessive Moreau makes his nearest British equivalent, Burne-Jones, seem anaemic by comparison. But he is guilty of atrocious overworking in his final *tour de force*, a clogged composition called *Jupiter and Semele*. Unlike his graphic work, this looming nightmare of a painting proves that the elderly Moreau did not know when to stop. *Millet/Van Gogh is at the Musée d'Orsay (00 331 40994814) until Jan 3 (closed Mon). Lorenzo Lotto at the Grand Palais (00 331 4131717) until Jan 11 (closed Tues). Gustave Moreau at the Grand Palais until Jan 4*

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork joins the Paris queues for the season's hottest shows, beginning with Van Gogh and Millet



reports

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES
WHETHER through speculation or sheer accident, Crook became associated with her career with the artist. It is not clear whether she intended to be a painter or whether she was a collector. In her career she painted more than 100 pictures. What she paints are everyday scenes of the city. Her subjects are the workers who waited behind the counters of crowded shops or in the streets. The colours are muted and the details are carefully rendered. Her work is not as well known as that of the Impressionists, but it is a valuable record of the life of the city in the late 19th century. Her work is now being shown in a retrospective at the Tate Gallery.

New cycle cinema opening
The new cycle cinema opening in North London is a welcome addition to the local arts scene. It will show a variety of films, including some of the best of the British and international cinema. The opening ceremony was held on Friday night, and was attended by a large number of people. The cinema is now open to the public, and will be showing films on a regular basis.

Building a library
The building of a new library in North London is a project that has been in the works for some time. The new library will be a modern and spacious building, and will provide a valuable resource for the local community. The building is now under construction, and is expected to be completed in the next few months. The library will be open to the public, and will offer a wide range of books and services.

to the best
The new building is a masterpiece of modern architecture, and will provide a valuable resource for the local community. The building is now under construction, and is expected to be completed in the next few months. The library will be open to the public, and will offer a wide range of books and services.

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No longer a law unto their own: on a five-day visit to China, Tony Blair at Tiananmen Square with Zhu Rongji, China's Prime Minister. Now each major city has a private law firm

China bows to legal evolution

China is showing a growing commitment to the rule of law. This is an optimistic statement to make about a country with such a lamentable record, but there is real evidence that China is taking significant steps towards legal reform.

Last month I was in Beijing for British Law Week — a series of seminars, workshops and the re-enactment of a mock trial — organised by the British Council and the Chinese Ministry of Justice to coincide with a visit by Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie Booth, QC. The aim was to bring together British and Chinese lawyers to build understanding of the British legal systems.

Leading figures, including Lord Justice Otton; Robin Booth, Assistant Chief Crown Prosecutor; Heather Haller, who chairs the Bar Council of England and Wales; Phillip Sycamore, immediate past President of the Law Society; and Ann Owers of Justice, led discussion on subjects ranging from contract and commercial law to criminal procedure, international conventions and human rights.

These last two areas, along with administrative law, including the process by which government decisions can be legally challenged, were included at the specific request of the



British lawyers and the UK Government are leading the People's Republic along the road to justice, says Helena Kennedy, QC

Chinese Ministry of Justice. The seminars came hot on the heels of China's signature of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights just days before the law week began.

No doubt grand gestures make good public relations in the face of international attention, but progress in other areas of legal reform suggests that genuine commitment to implementing the convention will continue even when the focus has shifted elsewhere.

In 1997 China implemented radical revisions to its Criminal Procedure Law and criminal codes. These revisions introduced for the first time an adversarial approach to criminal trials, a presumption of innocence, and limitations to the length of time a suspect can be held without charge. Robert Seabrook, QC, played an important role in advising the Chinese Government on these reforms, and reference was made to British laws.

Not surprisingly, the upheaval caused by the shift to an adversarial system, where the prosecution must prove its case before a judge, is considerable. Lawyers, judges and police need retraining and this will take time. At the start of the 1990s, nearly all lawyers in the People's Republic were employed by the State. Now each major city has private law firms and there is a thirst for information about setting up partnerships and about the business administration of legal practices.

Other areas of prime interest in the commercial field are privatisation, or "share-isation" as the Chinese prefer to call it, inward investment into the United Kingdom and issues relating to insurance.

The concept of insurance in China is also rapidly expanding. The scope of the law has grown from insurance

of physical property to insurance against liabilities — an issue close to the hearts of the increasing number of private legal practitioners, even though indemnity insurance is not yet compulsory. Last April the first operating licence was granted to Royal & Sun Alliance, an English insurance company.

There is a bleaker side to economic liberalisation. Unemployment and marital breakdown are growing. Women make up the majority of those who have been laid off from the state-owned enterprises that have been downsizing.

In the past decade there has been an explosion in juvenile criminal cases. In 1994 there were well over a million registered cases — 65 per cent of all crime. The average age of first offenders is dropping and the number of female offenders is on the rise. According to a report by the Gong An (Public Security) University, male to female offending before the Cultural Revolution was 100:1. Now it is 10:1.

Greater populations in the cities have increased crime rates and new types of crimes are being committed, including car crime, drugs, computer and credit-card fraud, gun crimes and prostitution. The number of offences attracting the death penalty remains alarmingly high.

British organisations are again playing a role in working to understand the problems. The Seaman Centre at Leicester University is conducting an extensive study of juvenile crime, and the British Council is working with Chinese women's organisations to increase knowledge of women's rights, violence against women and the avenues open for legal redress and protection.

Plans for the future include the extension of the Young Lawyers Training Scheme funded by the Department for International Development and a new programme of training in Britain for young Chinese judges. There will also be further training in China for practising lawyers on commercial law.

Organisations such as the British Council will continue to nurture links between British and Chinese lawyers, and encourage young Chinese professionals to study and work in Britain, and more senior practitioners to draw on wider experience.

Unlike other episodes in China's history, the move towards legal reform is evolutionary rather than revolutionary. Our hope must be that progress is the more permanent for the gradual pace at which it is being won.

Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws is a Labour peer.

When babies come after the environment

Are green issues more vital than safe toys, asks Justine Thornton

Who would have believed that the recent furore over the danger to children's health from toys would highlight the influence of environmental action groups in making environmental laws? It has also revealed that the European Community may arguably protect the environment more than its children.

Soft toys, such as teething rings and dolls, have been the centre of attention. They contain phthalates which are used to soften PVC. Children under three are particularly at risk because they tend to suck on the toys and their saliva reacts with chemicals alleged to cause kidney and liver damage, infertility and cancer.

Last July protesters from Greenpeace blockaded a chemical plant in The Netherlands, saying that the soft PVC plastic could be ingested by children and cause cancer. An EU scientific committee admits "cause for concern".

The European Commission is under increasing pressure from environmental and consumer groups to pass legislation to ban these toys. It is not proving easy to do so. It has taken more than two years to move to the possibility of legislation to restrict the use of phthalates. In 1996 government researchers expressed concern about phthalate levels in formula baby milk. Greenpeace then began a campaign against their use in toys. In April last year the Danish Government recommended that certain toys be removed from sale and teething rings were withdrawn in Italy, Spain and Greece.

Despite the evident concern, the European Commission cannot legislate to ban the toys because it still has to decide just how dangerous they are for children. Although numerous studies have been carried out, there is no conclusive method of simulating how children chew on the toys. The Commission has been waiting for the outcome of tests where adults volunteered to suck on the toys. The results were published last week, but do not appear to have clarified matters.

The absence of conclusive scientific evidence linking an activity with damage to the environment is a common problem for legislators. Notwithstanding this, EU law allows for measures to protect the environment even when the extent of the danger is uncertain. This is on the basis that by the time the science is conclusive, the environment may have been irreparably damaged, or that the costs of putting right the damage may exceed the preventive costs. There is no equivalent principle to protect children using toys.

Greenpeace's campaign has been sophisticated. As well as direct action tactics, it has included scientific investigation and lobbying. In September last year Greenpeace published the results of its own tests on the phthalate levels in 71 toys. The results were discussed by the Scientific Committee advising the Commission.

Even the High Court has recognised Greenpeace's status, allowing the group to challenge a government decision on nuclear waste on the basis that "Greenpeace is an entirely responsible and respected body", although there are those in industry who would question this.

Concerned at the potential damage to its sales, the toy industry is now pushing for legislation to restrict the use of phthalates.

The author, a barrister specialising in environmental law at Simmons & Simmons, is co-author of Environmental Law.

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Penny Keatings, Edward Parry and Lucy Boyd will be on hand to discuss the vast array of opportunities available, and advise on career planning, salary expectations and market trends. All discussions will be conducted on a one to one basis and in complete confidence. All attendees will receive the Lipson Lloyd-Jones Essential Guide to Interviews and our Northern Salary Survey. In the meantime, the following is a mere taster of the many exciting opportunities available in the North East.

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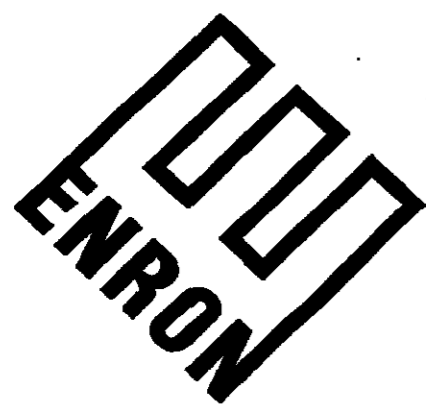
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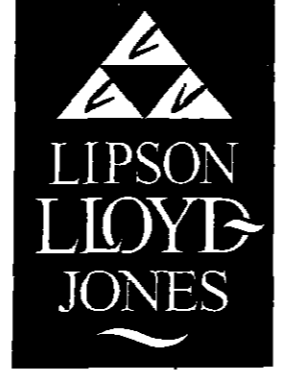
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ERICSSON



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SPORT IN BRIEF

Paris win pushes Rusedski to No 11

Tennis: Greg Rusedski has moved up from No 13 to No 11 in the latest world rankings after his victory in the Paris Indoor Open.

Henman and Rusedski are fighting for a place in the ATP world championships in Hanover later this month and their cause was aided when Rusedski's opponent, the Russian, was injured.

Squash: England began their campaign in the women's world team championship with a 3-0 win over Spain in qualifying pool B in Stuttgart.

Cricket: Javagal Srinath and Anurag Kulkarni, the India bowlers, triggered a collapse in Sri Lanka's innings and set up an 81-run victory in the first Test match in Colombo.

Motor Sport: Laurent Audois has won the coveted drive alongside David Leslie with Nissan in the 1998 Renault Formula 1 Championship.

OF THEIR TOUR

Wales

Three of the Welsh players have been named in the England squad for the World Cup.

Wales

Wales

Wales

Wales

Wales

Hodde tries to shelve Merson retirement plans

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GLENN HODDLE, the England coach, is thought to have taken pre-emptive steps to dissuade Paul Merson, the Aston Villa forward, from announcing his retirement from international football after it became evident that the recovering alcoholic was on the brink of deciding to concentrate his efforts on pursuing success with his club.

Merson spoke to a group of reporters after Villa's 3-2 victory over Tottenham Hotspur in Birmingham on Saturday and repeated suggestions he had made in an earlier interview that he had become mildly disillusioned with his role as a fringe member of Hoddle's squad and that it was time for him to move aside to allow younger players their chance.



Merson: fringe player

Hodde is believed to have learned of Merson's comments yesterday and assured him that he will still part of his plans for the European championship qualifying campaign.

It is clear, though, that Merson, 30, who has won 19 caps for his country and last appeared in an England shirt during the World Cup, will need to see proof of Hoddle's commitment to his cause if he is not to devote all his energies to Villa.

"My retirement from international football is on the horizon," Merson said. "I am a fringe player. I am not going to play. I am getting on a bit now and there are so many good youngsters around. You only have to look at Lee Hendrie here at Villa to see that. It would be nice for him to be involved with England. I have had my time and I will make a decision in the near future."

"I still want to play for England, don't get me wrong, but when you are playing well for your club and you are not getting in the England team, it is a bit disheartening. The time is coming when I want to concentrate on club football. I am ambitious and I want to win another championship. If no international football means I am fresher and better, then now is the time to think about that."

Merson's England career has not been particularly distinguished. Asked recently how he would rate his performances for his country, he said "E-minus". By his own admission, many of his earlier appearances were blighted by his addiction to alcohol, drugs and gambling.

Newcastle United remain optimistic of signing Ercan Abdullah, the experienced Turkish international, despite having an initial £3.5 million bid for the left-sided midfield player rejected by Trabzonspor, his club side yesterday.

Rudi Kullit, the Newcastle manager, first identified Ercan, 26, as a potential transfer target while in charge at Chelsea and though his first attempt at bringing him to England ultimately failed, he has since maintained a close interest in the player's development. Trabzonspor value Ercan at around £5 million, although it is understood that a firm offer in excess of £4 million would be enough to prompt his departure from the Avni Akar stadium.

Mauricio Taricco, the Argentine defender, became George Graham's first signing as Tottenham manager yesterday, joining Spurs in a £1.75 million transfer from Ipswich Town, the Nationwide League first division club. The full back, 25, completed his move from Portman Road after agreeing personal terms. Taricco, troubled by an ankle injury, was voted the supporters' player of the year at Ipswich last season.

Liverpool under fire for retaining Evans

THERE is nothing quite like the scent of a crisis to stir the blood of ageing footballers and, with Liverpool edging ever closer to the precipice, their preparation for the potentially season-defining Worthington Cup fourth-round match with Tottenham Hotspur tonight was in danger of being drowned out by the hard words of some distinguished old-boys yesterday (George Caulkin writes).

Just 48 hours after Alan Hansen's scathing critique of his former employers on Match of the Day - in which he branded much of the Liverpool team as "mediocre" - Jan Molby, once Hansen's team-mate in the successful Anfield side of the Eighties, added his weight to the growing argument that the club's two heads are decidedly inferior to one. The gist of his comments? Roy Evans must go. Molby said: "Why bring in a new manager [Gerard Houllier] when you then keep the old one? The decision has rebounded on the club and you have a situation where senior players are questioning the whole set-up."



Smith runs into trouble on his way to a Dallas rushing record

They lost their unbeaten record unexpectedly last week, against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and on Sunday, the Minnesota Vikings must have thought that the fates were determined to do their worst again. Reeling from injuries to both quarterbacks, they had to rely on a man playing with a broken thumb and throwing with his wrong hand to edge past the New Orleans Saints. The Vikings suffered their initial blow early in the first quarter in Minneapolis, when Randall Cunningham twisted a knee. He was replaced by Brad Johnson, the former quarterback of the London Monarchs, who was returning after an eight-week absence with a broken leg sustained early in the National Football League (NFL) season. Johnson turned in a bravura performance, throwing for 316 yards and completing 28 of his 38 passing attempts. He played in severe discomfort after breaking his thumb on an opponent's helmet early in the second half, but he inspired the Vikings' 31-24 win with a left-handed pass to Leroy Hoard, the running back, with three minutes left. "I knew the thumb was messed up straight away," Johnson said. "It was crooked. But I was ready to play. It felt great to be in there again. I had a hard time gripping the ball after I got the injury, but if I hadn't been able to throw it, I would have pulled myself out. I had practised left-handed passing all spring and that worked out for me today."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: LEADING TEAMS MANAGE TO SECURE VICTORIES DESPITE LOSING FIRST-CHOICE QUARTERBACKS

THEY lost their unbeaten record unexpectedly last week, against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and on Sunday, the Minnesota Vikings must have thought that the fates were determined to do their worst again. Reeling from injuries to both quarterbacks, they had to rely on a man playing with a broken thumb and throwing with his wrong hand to edge past the New Orleans Saints. The Vikings suffered their initial blow early in the first quarter in Minneapolis, when Randall Cunningham twisted a knee. He was replaced by Brad Johnson, the former quarterback of the London Monarchs, who was returning after an eight-week absence with a broken leg sustained early in the National Football League (NFL) season. Johnson turned in a bravura performance, throwing for 316 yards and completing 28 of his 38 passing attempts. He played in severe discomfort after breaking his thumb on an opponent's helmet early in the second half, but he inspired the Vikings' 31-24 win with a left-handed pass to Leroy Hoard, the running back, with three minutes left. "I knew the thumb was messed up straight away," Johnson said. "It was crooked. But I was ready to play. It felt great to be in there again. I had a hard time gripping the ball after I got the injury, but if I hadn't been able to throw it, I would have pulled myself out. I had practised left-handed passing all spring and that worked out for me today."

Brave Johnson defies injury to keep Vikings shipshape

By OLIVER HOLT

THEY lost their unbeaten record unexpectedly last week, against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and on Sunday, the Minnesota Vikings must have thought that the fates were determined to do their worst again. Reeling from injuries to both quarterbacks, they had to rely on a man playing with a broken thumb and throwing with his wrong hand to edge past the New Orleans Saints. The Vikings suffered their initial blow early in the first quarter in Minneapolis, when Randall Cunningham twisted a knee. He was replaced by Brad Johnson, the former quarterback of the London Monarchs, who was returning after an eight-week absence with a broken leg sustained early in the National Football League (NFL) season. Johnson turned in a bravura performance, throwing for 316 yards and completing 28 of his 38 passing attempts. He played in severe discomfort after breaking his thumb on an opponent's helmet early in the second half, but he inspired the Vikings' 31-24 win with a left-handed pass to Leroy Hoard, the running back, with three minutes left. "I knew the thumb was messed up straight away," Johnson said. "It was crooked. But I was ready to play. It felt great to be in there again. I had a hard time gripping the ball after I got the injury, but if I hadn't been able to throw it, I would have pulled myself out. I had practised left-handed passing all spring and that worked out for me today."

Elliott drives Ford forward

Walter Gammie charts the rise of a club on its uppers two years ago

THE road to riches that leads Ford United to Deepdale for the FA Cup first-round tie against Preston North End on Saturday began on the rocks of adversity. "Two seasons ago, we ran out of cash," Dennis Elliott, the manager, recalled. "All we pay is expenses. Just petrol money for travelling backwards and forwards three times a week and enough to buy a beer, but we we faced six weeks when we weren't able to pay anything."

FA CUP

The club also suffers by being in an area congested with football clubs, headed by David Logie, a home-grown youngster, who scored all the visiting team's goals. It means that tonight, while Elliott watches Preston play Millwall, Downes will take the team to Bedford for an unwanted replay. Elliott, looking beyond this week's excitement, has calmly set a long-term objective. "The money we make could go towards running the club for two years, but we want to use it to lay an artificial pitch that will bring us our own, regular source of revenue," he said. Chapman supports him and believes that Elliott is "single-minded enough" to achieve the goal. With its alliance of manager-cum-wheeler dealer and chairman-cum-goalkeeper, Ford is clearly a club in safe hands.

ATHLETICS

New run to twin best of British

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest marathon in Britain is the Flora London Marathon. No surprises there. But which is the second-most popular among British runners? Before the Manchester, Nottingham and Poteries marathons phone in to lay claim, the answer is New York. No marathon in Britain, other than London, attracts as many British runners as the 2,000-plus who participate in New York. That will change next year if the team behind the Puma Edinburgh Marathon, which was launched yesterday, can convert promise into reality. The target is 5,000 entries for the inaugural race on September 26 and, by claiming to have a fast, flat course, the race organisers expect the first year to be sharper than all British marathons, bar London. The route is scenic, but will the leaders have time to notice? In the interests of quick performances, at least one, and possibly both, principal guidelines that the sport uses to judge whether courses are fair will be breached. "Within the first two years, we are going to see a sub 2hr 10min marathon," Norrie Williamson, the course designer, said. "If it is a day like today [with gale-force winds], it could well be a 2:06 marathon." Like the Boston Marathon, Edinburgh starts and finishes the race too far apart to be within the guidelines designed to prevent wind-assisted marathon records. If start and finish are more than approximately eight miles apart, a course can be deemed to benefit from tailwind. If the drop is more than 42 metres, it is regarded as downhill. Williamson said the drop for Edinburgh was not yet known, but that it might be more than 42 metres. London is 31 metres. From the event's £250,000 budget, prize and appearance money have to be paid. It is questionable whether the event will have the financial clout to attract a number of prominent, world-class athletes, which is its stated intent, but, once word spreads that Edinburgh is scenic and fast, the first mass-participation marathon in Scotland for 12 years may do well. Beginning and ending in the ancient and modern capitals, Dunfermline and Edinburgh, the course takes in the Forth Road Bridge, the Royal Mile and passes through the gates of Holyrood Palace. Steve Smythe, who has run 53 marathons and is the race services editor for Runner's World, said: "It is the first marathon for a long time in which I have wanted to compete." Geoff Wightman, the former Commonwealth Games marathon runner, now Puma promotions manager, said: "We came here to build a fast course and the fact that it is scenic is a bonus. Here is the autumn event to complement London. It will have atmosphere, a spectacular course and potential for personal best times. Why go anywhere else?"

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for American Football results, including teams like Baltimore, Dallas, and San Francisco.

CRICKET

Table with columns for Cricket matches, including India vs Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka vs West Indies.

FOOTBALL

Table with columns for Football results, including Argentina vs Uruguay and Brazil vs Paraguay.

NETBALL

Table with columns for Netball results, including England vs South Africa and New Zealand vs Australia.

SQUASH

Table with columns for Squash results, including Heaton vs Brindley and Carter vs Hurrell.

TENNIS

Table with columns for Tennis results, including Stich and Pietrangeli vs Panatta and Pietrangeli.

POOLS FORECAST

Table with columns for Pool forecasts, including various pool games and players.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

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BOWLS

Table with columns for Bowls results, including Kowloon vs Miramonte and International Classic.

CRICKET

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Advertisement for William Hill, featuring a 'FREE SPORTSBAG' offer and 'LIVE WORTHINGTON CUP ACTION'.

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CRICKET: FIRST TEST FEARS INCREASE AS STEWART AND BUTCHER FAIL AGAIN

England running out of time

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN ADELAIDE

ADELAIDE (third day of four): England, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 11 runs ahead of South Australia

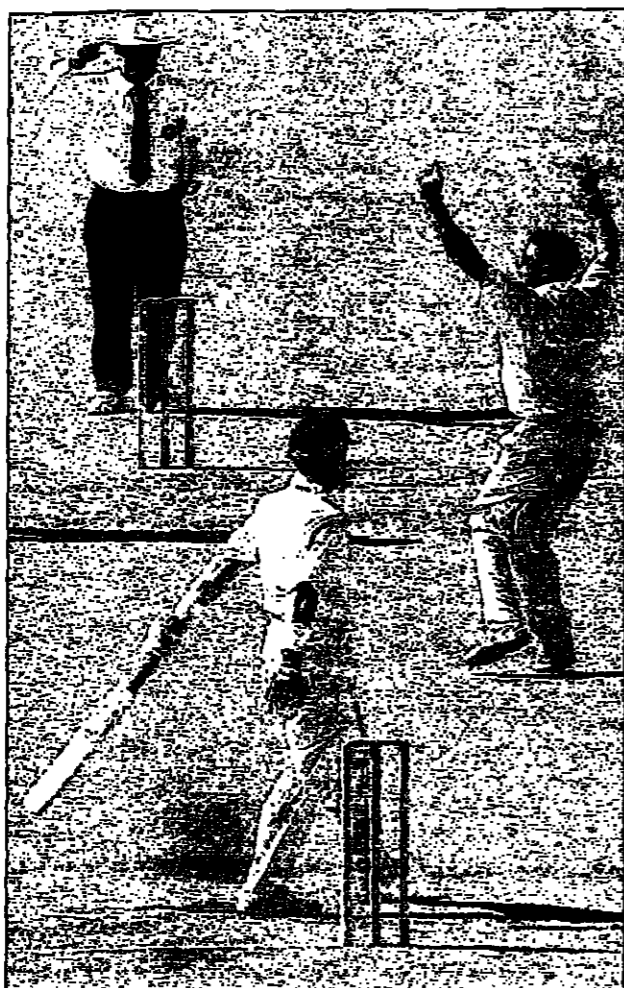
UNTIL now, the principal preoccupation of the England touring party had been the health of Alec Stewart and Mark Butcher. After the events at Adelaide Oval yesterday, concern must transfer to their form, for the brothers-in-law from Surrey are approaching the start of the Ashes series a week on Friday alarmingly short of runs.

If England sought one piece of comfort from their match here, it was reassurance on this issue, yet Stewart completed a pair for the first time in his England career and Butcher was out cheaply, to a difficult stroke, for the second time in the match.

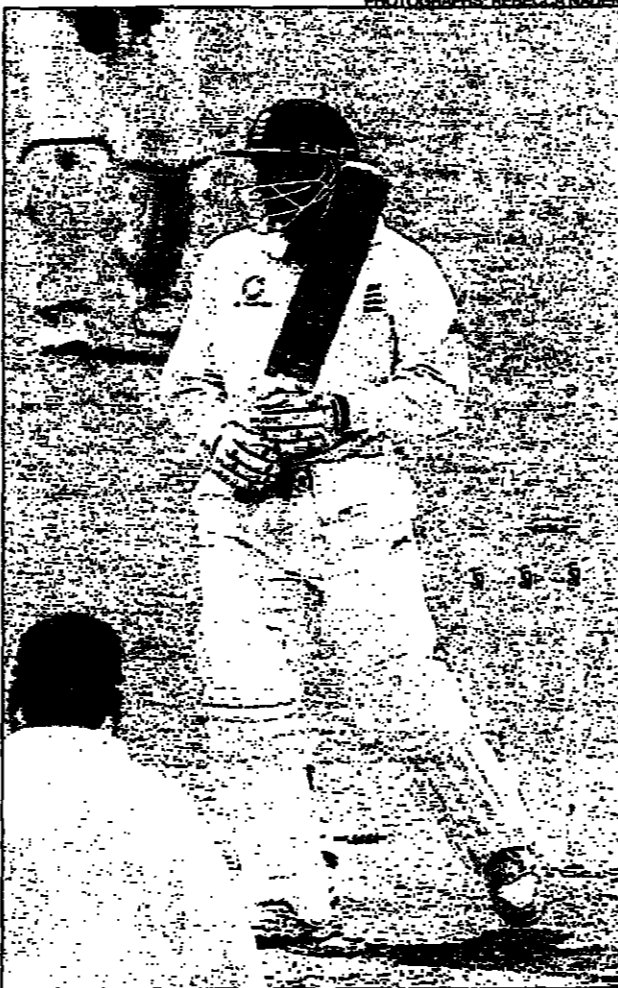
England are being thoroughly outplayed, by an under-strength state side, for the second time in successive weeks, but the outcome of this game will worry them less than its individual components. Their bowling, though far more disciplined than in Perth, lacks penetration and leading batsmen are toiling. Indeed, nobody has played an innings of genuine command.

Butcher's situation is a concern, as much for the manner of his dismissals as his lack of runs. When he needed a convincing redemption of restored poise, after his blow to the head in Perth, his footwork and judgment failed him. Stewart may have recovered after several days of discomfort with his recurring back condition, but he will be dismayed by his contribution. It was only the second time that he has made two noughts in a first-class match — the first was "many years ago" against Derbyshire — and he had begun his day by fumbling a routine stumping.

Australians do not stand in awe of Stewart, who averages only 26 in Ashes Tests compared to 41 overall, and this will have dissuaded no one of the general view here that he is taking on too much. The stumping miss, when Peter Such left Jason Gillespie marching yards down the pitch, was a rare aberration, but the cares of captaining a tour



Stewart falls leg-before to Blewett for his second duck of the match and Butcher looks away in dismay after playing on



while batting high in the order, keeping wicket and worrying about a suspect back cannot be understated. Stewart and Butcher will now feel under pressure to make runs in Cairns this weekend, not because their places are in any doubt, but for their own peace of mind. Queensland, with an attack containing Michael Kasprowitz, the likely third seamer for Australia, will not wish to ease their rehabilitation.

There is a pride and commitment in the approach of state teams to tour games, starkly at odds with the general attitude in England. For instance, Kasprowitz is due to play against England within hours of returning from Pakistan and will be straining to impress in order to head off the challenge of Gillespie. It has been a long road back for Gillespie, only recently recovered from the latest of three injuries since his last Test

appearance, but he has bowled well enough here to indicate that he has a part to play in the Test series. After England had taken the five remaining South Australia wickets for 63 before lunch, Cork and Fraser claiming two each and the deserving Such one, Gillespie bowled a nine-over spell with the new ball that contained only seven runs and the wicket of Butcher.

A batsman out bowled off the edge will claim a degree of misfortune, but Butcher was out-thought. Gillespie had identified in him a tendency to cut inappropriately early in an innings and, by going round the wicket and angling the ball into the left-hander, he cramped and endangered the stroke. Butcher played it all the same and could not complain about the outcome.

Michael Atherton, whose first-innings dismissal to a freakish short-leg catch was truly unlucky, drove and pulled precisely on his way to a welcome half-century and the day was settling into a languid pattern until a cluster of wickets after tea raised the possibility of England being beaten with a day to spare. Nasser Hussain has scored more than 200 runs in two games without looking at his best, but he will feel persecuted to have fallen to a shin-high leg-before decision, remembering his uncanny sequence of such dismissals earlier this year. Stewart had no such excuse for declining to play a stroke to an indicker from Greg Blewett.

SCOREBOARD FROM ADELAIDE

ENGLAND XI: First Innings 187 (N Hussain 57, D Cork 51)	SA: First Innings 187 (N Hussain 57, D Cork 51)
M A Butcher b Colegate 53	M P Flint b Cork 31
M A Atherton run out 53	C J Davies b W Headley 18
N Hussain b H Marshall 17	N J Naughton c Thorpe b Fraser 58
J A Stewart c B Blewett 10	N J Adcock b W Headley 18
M R Ramprakash not out 33	B A Johnson c Stewart b Cork 8
M R Ramprakash not out 33	T J Miles c Thorpe b Fraser 6
M R Ramprakash not out 33	E M C Arnold b D Cork 6
M R Ramprakash not out 33	J L Gillespie b D Cork 18
M R Ramprakash not out 33	M A Harty c Hussain b Such 6
M R Ramprakash not out 33	E Jones b D Cork 14, not out 4
Total (4 wickets, 64 overs) 149	Total (4 wickets, 64 overs) 149
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-72, 3-75, 4-80	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-80, 2-141, 3-214, 4-219, 5-227, 6-288, 7-298, 8-328, 9-332
BOWLING: Gillespie 15-8-29-1, Harty 15-4-48-1, Arnold 15-5-26-0, Johnson 8-1-21-0, Blewett 8-4-1, Cork 5-12-0	BOWLING: Cork 28-11-45-4, Thorpe 18-2-70-0, Miles 21-10-7-1, Fraser 21-7-57-3, Such 25-5-55-1, Ramprakash 4-1-1-1, Limpler, P G Potter and S J Davies
SOUTH AUSTRALIA: First Innings 143	SOUTH AUSTRALIA: First Innings 143
G S Stewart b Ramprakash 143	G S Stewart b Ramprakash 143

WITH VILLAINS LIKE THESE, WHAT USE IS A POLICE TRUNCHEON?

TONIGHT 8-00pm

THE BILL

www.itv.co.uk

BOWLS

Willis and Airey get off to flyer

ANDY WILLIS and Stuart Airey, of England, made a dream start to their defence of the Manulife Hong Kong International Classic Pairs tournament in Kowloon yesterday, racking up 66 shots and conceding only 17 in their first two matches (David Rhys Jones writes).

After beating a pair from the local Indian Recreation Club 26-9, they saw off Bob Barnett and Andrew Robertson, of the Hong Kong Cricket Club, 30-8. Robert Price and Jason Greenlade, of Wales, also won both of their matches, but Raymond Logan and Graham Robertson, representing Scotland, slipped up twice. They were defeated 24-14 by Larry Parker and David Tso, a local partnership, and were then beaten 20-17 by Bobby Donnelly and Neil Burkett, of South Africa.

WORD-WATCH

Answers from page 47

HEROLA (a) A small, rare antelope. *Damaliscus hunteri*, native to Kenya and Somalia, and more frequently called Hunter's hartebeest.

MOUTAN (b) The tree peony. *Paeonia suffruticosa*, a large shrub bearing pale pink flowers, native to China and Tibet, the parent of many garden varieties producing single or double flowers of many colours.

HALAWI (c) A kind of sweetmeat made with treacle and honey. Cf. *halva* and *halwa*. T. E. Lawrence, letter, 1912: "About halawi — I hope you remember the particular sticky sweetmeat of which Thompson and myself used to eat pounds."

NEMATODIRUS (c) A parasitic nematode worm, belonging to the family Troodontidae, which is found in the intestine of many mammals and causes disease in young lambs.

Solution to Winning More 1. Rq7! Kx7: 2. Qc6-Kh8: 3. Qxh6 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Alcoholism — the musical

Modern Times: Drinking For England BBC2, 9.30pm

Brian Hill's film about heavy drinkers wins marks for innovative treatment but seems uncertain how seriously to take a serious subject. The innovation is to get the subjects to break into verse or song, so much so that the programme could almost have been called *Alcoholism — the musical*. It transpires that the "poetry" is not the spontaneous creation of this band of souls but has been composed by a real poet, Simon Armitage. While entertaining, it tends to anaesthetise a painful theme. Not that Ami and Kerry, two women in their twenties, would say that their relentless boozing is anything but a lark (though it would have been useful to know why they do it, or where they get the money). In a film notable for its absence of shame, Jane's attempt to kick the habit so that she can see her 13-year-old son grow up introduces a more sombre strain.



The ordinary soldier's plight is revealed in *The Day the Guns Fell Silent* (BBC1)

Cutting Edge: Hello! Hello! Channel 4, 9.00pm

Some see *Hello!* as vanity publishing, a chance for the wealthy and famous to publicise their wealth and fame by paying good money to spread themselves across its glossy pages. Maggie Koumi, the editor, insists that the magazine is in the business of news — a latter-day *Picture Post*. In support of this surprising claim we witness an impressive hold-the-front-page job when Frank Sinatra inconveniently dies just as an edition is going to press and Koumi and her staff rush through a multi-page tribute. But snapping Emma Noble, the future daughter-in-law of John Major, in a bikini, seems less newsworthy. The Duchess of York, a *Hello!* contributor, is among those popping up in the film which is pegged to the mag's tenth anniversary, a matter for celebration even if the rival *OK!* claims to be challenging hard.

exuberant and perceptive satire which takes a refreshingly disenchanted view of the music industry and its hangers-on. The guiding light and lead singer of The Jockys We-Hey is Jez Claran Mckenzie, in the field of hard-rock parents who has been unemployed since leaving school two years ago. Episode one sees him recruiting his fellow band members, including his beautiful DSS officer (Simone Lahbib), and embarking on a disastrous first gig.

The Day the Guns Fell Silent BBC1, 10.45pm

A two-part documentary, showing today and tomorrow, draws on letters, diaries and reminiscences to evoke the feelings of the nation when the First World War ended 80 years ago. But if the film is structured around the original Armistice Day, this is only the peg for a wider look at the war and its impact. The juxtapositions are often revealing. While the abhorrence of trench warfare is pieced together through the experiences of a Scots Guards captain, the present Earl Haig defends his father from the charge of sending thousands of young men to needless deaths in a church in Somerset mark two deaths on the same day during the Battle of the Somme. One is of Tom King, an ordinary soldier, and the other of Raymond Asquith, son of the Prime Minister. Peter Waymark

The Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star Channel 4, 10.00pm

Despite the title this is a drama not a documentary, following the fortunes of a young rock band from Glasgow. Written by Brian Easley, who adapted Iain Banks's *The Crow Road* for television, it is an

RADIO CHOICE

The Unknown Soldier Radio 2, 9.00pm

Tony Robinson traces the process by which the unknown soldier was brought back from France for burial in Westminster Abbey. Robinson visits St. Pol sur Termonie, to which a number of unnamed soldiers were brought from surrounding graveyards in November 1920. At midnight, one was chosen by a brigadier-general wearing a blindfold to preserve anonymity. The idea for a burial in the Abbey had been raised in a letter to the Dean of Westminster from an army padre, David Raiton. Malcolm Brown, the historian, says the notion of the unknown soldier represented the idea "that anyone who had lost a relative whose body could not be found could think that it was their relative who was being brought back home".

File on 4 Radio 4, 8.00pm

This long-running programme consistently contains the best hand-edged reporting anywhere in radio and tonight's investigation promises to illustrate two of its principal strengths: topicality and thoroughness. The issue tonight is inward investment in Britain, in the news because of the Siemens and Fujitsu factories in the North East of England which are shortly closing because of the downturn in the world demand for (and price of) computer-related products. There are also large question-marks over Korean plants in South Wales and Scotland. *File on 4*'s case is that there has been waste and a lack of accountability in the British Government's agencies responsible for attracting these sunrise industries. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Zoi 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 6.00 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session 10.00 Digital Update 10.10 John Peel 10.25 The Breakfast 2.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Scott Mills

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 Off The Shelf Tales from Ovid 7.30 Chit Chat 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Concert Hall 9.00 News 9.15 In German 9.30 World Business Report 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 On Screen 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 China's 10.30 News 12.00am World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Health Matters 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsweek 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitask Hit List 3.00 News, (648 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Gruffalo Concert 4.00 News 4.15 Sunday 4.30 Insight (648 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 One Planet 6.48 only News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Megamix 8.00 Newsweek 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Live 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 Insight 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.25 Outlook 11.30 Megamix 12.00 Newsweek 12.30am Early Versions 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsweek 1.30 Discovery 2.00 Newsweek 2.30 Meridian Live 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 One Planet 4.00 The World Today 5.00 The World Today

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Sir's Classical World 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 The Unknown Soldier. See Choice 10.00 Cole Porter Night and 10.30 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Nick Aron 8.00 James Wilton 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night 5.00 Bill Overton

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame and Record of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces of music 2.00pm Concerto Brahms (Piano Concerto No 1 in d minor) 3.00 Jamie Crook. Includes: Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. The latest news updates, with John Burningham 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Burningham introduces two hours of sleep-inducing sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Mendelssohn (Concerto Overland) Find (Claremont Concerto in C minor), Schubert (Symphony No 6 in D minor), Elgar (Enigma Variations) 11.00 Mann at Night. Music and Conversation through the early hours with Alan Mann 12.00am Concerto in 3.00 Mark Griffiths with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Breakfast, with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Niccy Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Pizzos and Co 4.00 Drive, with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Extra. A full round-up and the main sports bulletin of the day 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller presents coverage of the fourth round of the Worthington Cup 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Bobby Hill 6.45 Harriet Scott 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Menti 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill Overton and Kirsty Young 9.00 Scott Chisholm 11.00 Lorraine Kelly 1.00pm Anna Rieback 3.00 Tommy Boyd 6.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Nick Aron 8.00 James Wilton 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night 5.00 Bill Overton

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes: Strauss (First Piano Concerto) (Suite française); Morricone (Laetitia Sturt) 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Includes: Bach (Triple Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041); Taverner (Sonata for Theamba); Liszt (Piano Sonata in A, K311); Ravel (Pavane Pour une Infante Defunte); Tchaikovsky (Francesca da Rimini) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Mistislav Stropovitch (1.30) Second Series: The Beatles (Gimme Shelter) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from Studio 1, Broadcasting House, Belfast, the second of four lunchtime concerts presented by John Toal. Piers Adams, recorders, Howard Beach, piano, Ernst Kraemer (Introduction and Variations, Op 23); York Bowen (Recorder Sonata); Rubbra (Meditations on James Galway's 'High School (Scottish Suite); Hunyady (Concert Polonoise) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis, Jean-Yves Thibautaud, piano (Concerto for Oboe), Schnittke (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat), Turnage (Momentum), Elgar (Symphony No 2 in E flat) 4.00 Voices: Edith Piaf (v) 4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson

RADIO 4

5.00 In Tune As a new production of *Boris Godunov* opens at the Coliseum, Sean Bellamy, Sean Bellamy to the bass John Tomkinson as he prepares for the role 7.45 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live from the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, continuing a season of chamber recitals. Gould (The Goldberg Variations) (No 1 in c minor); Arensky (Piano Trio No 1 in D minor, Op 32) 8.30 Adultery and Other Diversions. Tim Parks reads from his new collection of essays 8.50 Tchaikovsky (Piano Trio in A minor, Op 50) 9.50 Postscript: Grave New World J.G. Ballard talks about the psychological future and the emergence of new personality types 10.15 BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrej Kukuljan Zentay, violin Gerrold (Violin Concerto) 10.45 Night Waves Richard Coles talks to the composer Hans Werner Henze, whose new autobiography gives a graphic account of his musical life, from an unhappy childhood in Germany during the onset of Fascism to international acclaim as one of the world's leading contemporary composers 11.30 Jazz Notes with Alyn Shipton 12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi (v) 1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

6.00am Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughton. Includes: 6.55, 7.30 Newsbeat 7.25 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 The Choice with Michael Bush 9.30 First Night: The Divorce Party A woman's eventful first night on the singles scene 9.45 (FM) Serbia: Memoirs of an Infantry Officer Siegfried Sassoon's account of life in the trenches during the First World War. Read by James Wilby (v) 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney 11.00 Nature: The Volcanos of Gombos Joanna Pincock talks to Charlotte Ulenbrook about her studies of chimpanzee behaviour (v) 11.30 Visiting Julia Peter Tinnewood's comedy drama Julia comes home — just in time. Starring Keith Barron and Liz Goulding (v) 12.00 News 12.04 You and Yours 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Quiz: Unquote Richard Griffiths, Leo Jardine, Christopher Matthew and Paul Vaughan on their wits in the quotation panel game. Chaired by Nigel Hees 2.00 The Archers (v) 2.15 Afternoon Play: The Girls They Left Behind A look at the battlefields of the First World War as seen through the poetry and reminiscences of students from James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh. Read by Carol Ann Crawford (v) 3.00 The Exchange 0171-580 4444 3.30 Powerful Substances: Hemp, the Forgotten Crop Hemp, which can be used for making rope, paper, money — and marijuana (v) 3.45 Cautionary Tales Alan Bennett reads from Hilary Bellot's classic and Sophie Hornish reads a selection of her own contemporary tales

RADIO 4

4.00 A Good Read Sarah LeFanu and her guests, the pathologist Bernard Knight and the poet J.A. Farrow discuss their favourite paperbacks 4.30 Shop Talk with Heather Payton 5.00 PM with Nigel Wrench and Charlie Lee-Potter 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Radio Shuttleworth Graham Fellows talks the cause of singer-songwriter John Shuttleworth, talking to celebrity guests 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row The nightly arts programme, with Mark Lawson 7.45 Still Waters Part two of Ann Marie D. Mambro's drama about a woman's search for her missing husband. Starring Ann Scott-Jones and Emma Currie. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (v) 8.00 File on 4 See Choice 8.40 In Touch Peter White with news for visually impaired people 9.00 Case Notes Graham Easton reports on how good nutrition can help combat disease 9.30 The Choice (v) 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: *Le Grand Meaulain* by Alain Fournier. Read by Philip Franks (2:10) (v) 11.00 Late Night on 4: The New Stand-up comedy, hosted by Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis, with Dan Friedman, (v) Romero, David Quantick, Jane Buzszman and Simon Mansley (v) 11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Quentin Cooper presents the weekly guide to films and television, and hosts *Angry Christmas* (v) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: News of a Kidnapping by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (v) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service 5.30 World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 159 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1055, 1088. Broadcasts and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamee.

THE PAIN... Need to

www.itv.co.uk

Stewart struggling to find form as Ashes battle looms



GOLF 48 Blooming Rose prepares to go back to school

SPORT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 1998

Striker faces lengthy absence Chelsea move swiftly to fill Casiraghi gap

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE roll-call of leading surgeons that strikes a knell in every player's heart was being read out for Pierluigi Casiraghi yesterday as it became clear that Chelsea are beginning to fear that their striker may be ruled out of football for up to a year because of the serious knee injury that he sustained against West Ham United at Upton Park on Sunday.

It was immediately apparent that the injury was serious and an exploratory operation today will reveal the exact nature of the damage, but the club is already making plans for a long, laborious rehabilitation.

After an initial scan on the Italian international forward yesterday, the fear is that Casiraghi has ruptured cruciate ligaments in his knee and damaged nerves.

As they came to terms with the loss of the man who be-

came their record signing when he joined them from Lazio for £5.4 million in the summer, Chelsea moved quickly to try to plug the gap. The 17-year-old Finnish striking sensation, Mikkel Forssell, his country's young player of the year last year, will join them on a free transfer from HJK Helsinki in a fortnight.

Chelsea's cosmopolitan ranks will also be boosted by the addition of Bjarne Goldbaek, the FC Copenhagen midfielder player, who scored against them in the first leg of their Cup Winners' Cup second-round tie at Stamford Bridge last month and who will cost about £300,000. He will wear the No 7 shirt vacated by Brian Laudrup, who has moved in the opposite direction.

Most of the burden, though, is likely to fall on the broad shoulders of Tore Andre Flo,

the Norway striker, who many feel should have been in the starting line-up instead of Casiraghi anyway. Flo is likely to play in attack with Gianfranco Zola, leaving only Gianluca Vialli, their player-manager, and the relatively untested Mark Nicholls as cover.

The irony, of course, is that in a matter of days Chelsea have been robbed of what was an embarrassment of riches. Until Laudrup made his unhappiness known, they had had too many strikers, too many top-class internationals, fighting for a place in the team and too many destined to be continually disappointed.

Now, they may be forced to delve into the transfer market again and further inflate an already bulging wage bill. Vialli is still a fine player, but his managerial duties would be an impediment to him competing more regularly and he may feel that he needs to buy another striker to exert pressure on Flo and Zola.

Forssell, who impressed Vialli during a loan spell that he spent at Stamford Bridge and who played in Helsinki's European Cup Champions' League match against Benfica last Wednesday, is not yet accomplished enough to do that. Whether Chelsea, who have

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Evans under fire.....49

spent lavishly already, have any money left in the kitty is also questionable.

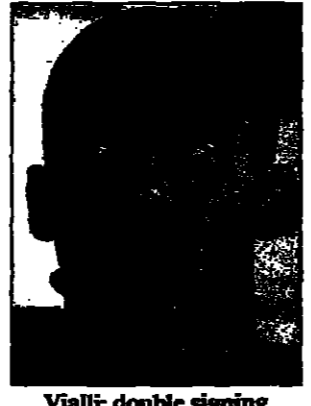
Casiraghi was hurt in a sickening collision with Rio Ferdinand, the West Ham defender, and Shaka Hislop, the goalkeeper, in the 21st minute of Chelsea's 1-1 draw in the London derby, which left them in fifth place in the FA Carling Premiership and unbeaten in the league since the opening day of the season.

Chelsea hope that the operation to repair the damage will be performed by the end of this week, either by David Dandy, the Cambridge surgeon, who helped Alan Shearer to recover from his cruciate injury, or by John King, the London specialist. It is also possible that Casiraghi may fly to Colorado for surgery and Chelsea are also planning to allow him to return to Italy to speed his convalescence.

Casiraghi's misfortune capped a miserable start to his Premiership career. He scored just once, an opportunistic goal against Liverpool at Anfield, in Chelsea's ten league games. He did not lack for effort, but luck seemed continually against him as a succession of shots and headers rebounded off every part of the crossbar and goalposts.

Vialli remained loyal to him amid the other changes he made to the team, but if he had failed to score against West Ham, the clamour for Flo's inclusion might have become too loud for the player-manager to ignore. The Norwegian, who scored for his country against Brazil in the World Cup, is now likely to be given the extended run in the side that he has been denied since Ruud Gullit signed him from SK Brann at the start of last season.

Neither he nor Zola, though, are out-and-out strikers likely to provide 20 goals a season in the way Chelsea hoped that Casiraghi would. He never really had a chance to prove them right.



Vialli: double signing



Adams, treasurer of the West Indies Players' Association, sees no reason to be cheerful during a break in negotiations

West Indies players to go through with tour

By PAT GIBSON AND JOHN GOODBODY

THE West Indies cricketers will be touring South Africa this winter. After six days of controversy, a deal was finally reached last night between the rebel players and the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) at a Heathrow hotel.

The agreement followed nearly 20 hours of negotiations, which were sparked off last Wednesday when Brian Lara, the captain, and Carl Hooper, his vice-captain, were dismissed.

The players, who were demanding more money and better conditions for the 34-month tour, backed Lara and Hooper and refused to go. The 16 players were last night packing their bags and preparing to leave their hotel for Johannesburg, where they are expected to take part in the opening game against Gauteng in Soweto tomorrow.

Last-minute hitches held up the deal and forced the opening game against an Oppenheimer XI in Johannesburg, which was scheduled to be played today, to be cancelled.

With Ali Bacher, the managing director of the South African board, who had flown to London last Friday, trying to reconcile the opposing sides, there had seemed to be a breakthrough at 2am yesterday, when the negotiators went to bed.

Pat Rousseau, the WICB president, believed that a deal had been agreed. However, when the 16 players, who were staying in a different hotel 500 yards away, did not turn up at 10.30am yesterday as scheduled, it was clear that further obstacles were preventing any deal.

Lloyd, the manager of the tour and a former West Indies captain.

A sponsorship deal to improve the financial package for the players has been brokered by Dave Richardson, the former South Africa wicket-keeper, in conjunction with a sports marketing company in Johannesburg.

Richardson said: "The fact that we have been able to obtain a sponsor in the last two days will hopefully assist the board and the players in getting together and solving this difficulty."

However, he emphasised that the presence of both Lara and Hooper on the tour was essential to the deal. There was increased pressure from the South African Broadcasting Company (SABC), which will be televising matches on the tour. Edward Griffiths, the head of SABC, said: "We will not put up with anything less

than a full strength side. We owe it to our sponsors, viewers and advertisers."

The five Test matches are projected to attract 300,000 spectators and the seven one-day games are guaranteed sell-outs.

Bacher has made it clear that Lara's presence is essential. He said: "The black population will come to watch the West Indies, but they will still support the South African boys. Lara is vital to the tour. He's been to the townships. He's done good work there."

At 5pm yesterday, a West Indies flag was raised behind a desk for an imminent press conference in the Cornaught Suite of the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, where the negotiations were taking place. However, there was no announcement and the negotiators and the players were up against a tight deadline. The last flight to Johannesburg was due to leave at 9.45pm. The first four-day game, against Griqualand West, is due to begin in Kimberley on Saturday.

There is also political pressure on the rebel players. Last Friday, President Nelson Mandela sent personal letters to them saying that he would be "honoured" to meet them and begged them to tour South Africa this winter for the sake of the youngsters in his country. The 16 letters were delivered in a package to Courtney Walsh, the West Indies fast bowler, shortly after Bacher arrived in London.

However, they did not have an immediate impact in solving the biggest crisis in international cricket since the 1977 breakaway of many of the world's leading players to play in a series of games sponsored by Kerry Packer.

Dallaglio misses England opener

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND will start their international campaign this season without Lawrence Dallaglio, their captain. Dallaglio twisted his knee playing for Wasps at Northampton on Saturday and will miss the World Cup qualifying game against The Netherlands in Huddersfield on Saturday, leaving Martin Johnson to lead the side for the first time.

Keen though Dallaglio is to resume his international career after the summer hiatus, it is not a decision that will have caused either him or Clive Woodward, his coach, much anguish. There are tougher tasks to come, against Italy, in the second qualifying game, and then Australia and South Africa. Far better for Dallaglio to rest the injury in

Quinnell set for Wales.....48

the hope of playing against the Italians on November 22.

He leaves the team in capable hands: Johnson led the British Isles to victory against South Africa last year and has been in wonderful form for Leicester this season. Martin Corry, also of Leicester, has been added to the squad as back-five cover. Woodward will name his team to play The Netherlands on Thursday.

The training squad was pruned down to 33 yesterday, leaving Sale free to select Barrie-Jon Mather for their Allied Dunbar Premiership game with West Hartlepool on Friday, while George Chuter, of Saracens, Bert Sturnham, of Bath, and the injured Darren Crompton, of Richmond, can also return to their clubs.

Anthony Sullivan, Cardiff's recruit from St Helens rugby league club, must put his international hopes on hold: after two games of club rugby union, Sullivan was overlooked for the Wales side to play South Africa on Saturday.

ENGLAND SQUAD: Backs: M Best (Northampton), M Perry (Bath), T Bana (Sale), G Lister (Huddersfield), T Underwood (Newcastle), S Brown (Richmond), D Hogg (Sale), P de Gier (Bath), W Crosswood (Leicester), J Gaskell (Bath), J Thompson (Saracens), M Call (Bath), P Grayson (Northampton), K Brookes (Saracens), M Dawson (Northampton), A Hewley (Leicester), Forwards: D Barford (Leicester), W Green (Worcester), J Lomas (Hartlepool), G Rowse (Leicester), R Cook (Leicester), P Greening (Sale), A Long (Bath), G Archer (Newcastle), G Greenwood (Saracens), M Johnson (Leicester), captain, T Hodder (Northampton), M Best (Leicester), B Clarke (Richmond), L Dallaglio (Wasps), R Hill (Saracens), M Corry (Leicester), A Diprose (Saracens)



Casiraghi leaves Charing Cross Hospital yesterday. He will undergo an exploratory operation today

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-24.

No 1559

- ACROSS
- 1 Aircraft engine cover (7)
 - 5 Beam-bouncing detection method (5)
 - 8 Bundle of corn (5)
 - 9 (Dissolve) native to area (7)
 - 10 An artificial language (9)
 - 12 Sharp cutter (5)
 - 13 Clergyman (6)
 - 14 Prospective clothes, have strings (6)
 - 17 A constellation: various Pops (3)
 - 18 In love: Tiana was, of an case (9)
 - 20 Location: place of duty; post (7)
 - 21 Feathered weapon (5)
 - 23 Bring to bear (effort, pressure) (5)
 - 24 Shake (7)
- DOWN
- 1 (Hereditary) layer of society (5)
 - 2 Misery (5)
 - 3 Ragging fire (7)
 - 4 An elopers' Green (6)
 - 5 Cowboy show (5)
 - 6 Personal manner, bearing (9)
 - 7 Dins: a game (7)
 - 11 Vote in name of (another) (9)
 - 13 Fur-lined cloak (7)
 - 15 Secular; disrespectful to religion (7)
 - 16 A gemstone: sounds like an Ali (6)
 - 18 Turn out of home (5)
 - 19 Use rod to find water (5)
 - 22 To chafe (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1558
ACROSS: 2 Sensible 6 Savant 8 Subtle 9 Cabbage
10 Scrap 12 Westward Hol 16 Open Sesame 18 Rhine
20 Lumatic 21 Claque 22 Set out 23 Everyone
DOWN: 1 Parapet 2 Stagnate 3 Squash 4 Biter 5 Escarp
7 Ambition 11 Constant 13 Disguise 14 Impious 15 Creche
17 Penny 19 Image

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